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REVIEWS OF NEW BOOKS.

THE WORLD IN OUR DAY: LONDON.

Observations on the Social and Political State of the European People in 1848-9. By Samuel Laing. 8vo. Longmans.

This is the second series of Mr. Laing's "Notes of a Traveller," but referring more to home than to foreign parts than the first series did, is, to our judgment, infinitely more important and deserving of the public consideration. The author is no common writer; none of the *servum pecus* class. For right or for wrong, for truth or for error, he is an original thinker; one of the rarest characters among our multitudinous acquaintance, except a few in science, and very few in literature, the fine arts, or anything else. It is from such men that we learn something, whether we agree with or differ from them; and we deem it almost impossible that any one person could be found to coincide with Mr. Laing in all his opinions, for, indeed, they are very strong, taking no line of concession or compromise. His *sic volo, sic jubeo* has no allowances for other peoples' ideas; and yet there is no offensive *ex cathedra* intemperance in his manner of announcing and enforcing his own views. We rather like their peremptory challenge; and are not surprised that they should have been made the subject for remark in the House of Commons. There is much in them for reflection. They are bold, unreserved, and unflinching. What he thinks he says; and his thoughts are of a superior order, and his sayings worth listening to. The topics are numerous, and most of them of vital consequence to mankind at this critical era; and we are not if their treatment appears to us to be simply curious, tending to error, very theoretical, even paradoxical, or founded on most comprehensive knowledge and philosophical acumen—we are bound to confess we learn something from them all. Yet modestly does the author state—

"The success of the first series of Notes of a Traveller proves that a work which has no claim to being entertaining, well written, or instructive, may, from the advanced state of the public mind in this country, be very favourably received, if it be suggestive. Our reading public desires to think for itself, not to be thought for; and in matters of opinion, speculation, and theory, prefers the raw materials to the made-up article. To furnish the raw material is the object of the following Notes."

The great leading features, however, relate to the minute subdivision of landed property in France and Germany—the almost universal declension of aristocracy as a social power and support of monarchical government—the substitution of functionalism in its stead, (ministers, Secretaries of State, and official *employés*, being now what great feudal barons and their lesser companions were of old)—the systems of centralisation and governmental education of the people—the conscription and Landwehr aids to military power, incompatible with habits and practice of industry,—and other novel elements now grown or growing into potent forces, on the right development and direction of which the future happiness or misery of Europe depends.

To enter into all or the chief portion of all these, even moderately, would require a separate

Gazette for every question. We must, therefore, not only choose, but be very concise and desultory in our remarks on what we select. We shall begin with a quotation affecting the Peace Society.

"We are," says Mr. L., "in our social life, arrangements, and institutions, much more distinct and widely apart from the Continental people, since the peace and settlement of Europe in 1815, than we ever were at any former period of our history. The philanthropists who are flattering themselves that a peace of thirty years, and an unexampled extension of commercial affairs and personal relations between individuals of different countries, are rapidly assimilating all nations to one common type of civilisation, and are bringing on a happy period when wars will cease, conventional differences will no longer divide nations, and all disputes between countries will be settled by arbitration at a Peace Congress, are not looking at the different elements of society which have been growing up on the Continent since the last peace,—elements sown in the war, and which are only adapted to and preparative for war, and a military organisation and spirit of society. We are in reality now, in the 19th century, more the *toto divisi orbe Britanni* than we were in the 4th, or the 14th. The spirit and principle of our social institutions are more different now than they were then, from those of the Continental people. Whether the new social state on which the Continent is entering, or the old in which this country is remaining, be the best adapted for the end of all social arrangements, the well-being, moral and physical, of the individuals composing the social body, is a question not, perhaps, to be answered in the present generation. We know, indeed, in this country, the ground on which our social structure with its economy is standing; we know its faults and its merits, its good and its bad productions. But the three new elements in Continental society,—the division and distribution of landed property, functionalism, and the Landwehr institution,—are but now beginning to expand, and show indications of their fruits. The Continental people themselves cannot foresee what these fruits may be."

And in an after chapter he adds—

"The three new elements which have entered into, and become predominant in, the social system of the Continent since the French revolution, viz., the diffusion of landed property through the social body, functionalism, and the Landwehr institution, have not certainly as yet promoted the well-being, liberty, peace, and good government of the Continental people. They are, it must be confessed, more enslaved by their Landwehr service, their functional system, and their educational system, than they were in the middle ages under their feudal lords. This is a state of society that cannot last. It is unsuitable to the requirements of the people of the nineteenth century. Fearful convulsions may be expected before the present transition state from feudal to liberal social institutions and character has settled down permanently, and the new elements are cemented together. In the foregoing Notes I have endeavoured to explain the nature and tendencies of these three elements. They are unknown in our social system, and are generally overlooked by our travellers on the Continent; but in them will be found the key to many

of the late social convulsions in Germany, and to many future convulsions to which the past are but a feeble prelude. The tendency, at the present day, of these new social elements are to a retrogression of society in civilisation, liberty, well-being, and peace, not to an advance."

To nationally encouraged Emigration, the author is a strenuous opponent, and the Fine Arts and Music find little favour in his sight: nor does he allow the drama the rank claimed for it as a civilising instrument or popular leader. But though we shall endeavour to attend to these matters, we shall, in the first place, afford our readers a taste of the writer on one of the home views to which we have alluded above—the comparative condition of morals and manners in England and the Continent.

"The traveller," Mr. L. affirms, "who compares the condition and spirit of the Continental and English populations, must begin with correcting his old impressions of the great leviathan of London, the concentrated exhibition of all that is good and evil in modern society."

"We hear much of the vice and profligacy of London, and the theme is not altogether new. *Nemo in ea sine crimine vivit*, said Richard of Devizes concerning London in the twelfth century. It is a standing-dish, like muffins and buttered toast, at the tea-table of every spinster who sits down with the curate and five serious ladies of fifty, to deplore the adulteration of Bohemia and the moral depravity of mankind. The truth is, that the clergyman in his parish, the magistrate in his district, the overseer, constable, or police officer in his ward or walk, has an official propensity to describe his own circle of duty and action as among people the most vicious, depraved, and turbulent within the bills of mortality, the most difficult to be kept in order, sunk in ignorance, vice, and misery, every street teeming with thieves and abandoned women, and society only held together by his own unseen and not sufficiently appreciated wisdom and exertions. The statistical writer, too, and the legislator in small, are nothing loth to give the interest of enormity and magnitude to their statements of the vice and profligacy of the lower orders in London; and some of them lay it pretty thick on the public credulity."

He enters into statistical returns and calculations, which distinctly prove that all the prodigious statements about excessive and almost general depravity, are monstrous and impossible fables:—

"These are," he adds, "but exaggerations of police officers and statistical writers, which refute themselves by their extravagance. They tell us of 40,000 pickpockets, thieves, and vagabonds always prowling about in our metropolis; of 40,000 rogues who do not know when they rise in the morning where they shall lie down at night; of gangs of housebreakers and robbers enough to sack the city of London. They tell us, in short, of a state of society in London such that society could not exist if one half of their statements were true."

"If we stick one prong of a gigantic carving-fork through the dome of St. Paul's—it may be done in imagination, or still better on the half-crown map of London and its environs—and describe a circle with the other prong, at the distance of twenty miles or so from this centre, we

Enlarged, 22s.]

find the inhabitants within this circle constitute, in our railway and omnibus age, the London nation, the people who live, move, and have their daily being in the streets of London. The population of this kingdom of Cockneyland exceeds that of Scotland, Sweden, Denmark, Holland, Belgium, Hanover, Saxony, or Württemberg; and its wealth would buy all the property of half a dozen of these small kingdoms. Now, where 3,000,000 of people, the least number we can reckon within this circle (London and Westminster containing 2,200,000 in 1849, according to official estimates), and a vast proportion of the total wealth of the whole human race are concentrated, together with all the gratifications which wealth can purchase, within a circle round St. Paul's of twenty miles of radius, luxury, extravagance, dissipation, self-indulgence, and also the progeny of these, poverty, vice, misery, must exist close together, and in very imposing masses; so imposing from their magnitude that we are very apt to mistake a part for the whole, to pronounce all London one scene of profligacy and misery, or perhaps one scene of boundless wealth, generosity, and public spirit, according to the sample of it we have seen."

We forbear the illustration, though quite decisive, drawn from the sad statistics of prostitution, reducing the numbers to about a twentieth of the amount usually asserted, and go on with the author:—

"It is probable that in London, Glasgow, Paris, Berlin, Vienna, and all great cities at home and abroad, the amount of this kind of profligacy and misery is very much the same in the same periods, and is very much less than statistical posers and benevolent society orators represent it to be. The vice and ignorance of the vast London population is a fine subject for platform eloquence; for whatever vice and ignorance there may be, it lies all in a heap before the eyes of the auditors, quite handy to the orator to point to it; and is not scattered about in 500 towns, as it would be in a kingdom of the same population.

"To me the London nation appears remarkably distinguished for their strong moral sense and their acute quick intelligence. In these no people in the most-educated, virtuous, or simple countries or districts, at home or abroad, can be compared to the Londoners. It stands to reason that this should be their character. They are a people living in the midst of temptation and opportunity, and therefore necessarily in the perpetual exercise, daily and hourly, of self-restraint and moral principle; living in the midst of the keenest competition in every trade and branch of industry, and therefore necessarily in the perpetual exercise of ingenuity and mental power in every work and calling. The needy starving man in this population exerts every day, in walking through the streets of London, more practical virtue, more self-restraint and active virtuous principle, in withstanding temptation to dishonest immoral means of relieving his pressing want, and he struggles against and overcomes more of the vicious propensities of our nature, than the poor, or rich, or middle class man in a country population or small town population, has occasion to exercise in the course of a whole lifetime. Man must live among men, and not in a state of isolation, to live in the highest moral condition of man. The London population may be far enough from this highest moral condition; but they are individually and practically educated by the circumstances in which they live, into high moral habits of honesty and self-restraint. Look at the exposure of property in London, and at the small amount of depredation in proportion to the vast amount of articles exposed to depredation in every street, lane, and shop; and consider the total inadequacy of any police force, however numerous—and in all London the police force does not exceed five thousand persons—or of any vigilance on the part of the owners themselves,

however strict, to guard this property, if it were not guarded by the general, habitual, thorough honesty of the population itself. Look at temptations to inebriety, and the small proportion of the people totally abandoned to habitual drunkenness, or even to the hourly dram-drinking of Scotch people, or the *Schnaps* of the lower classes in Germany. Virtue is not the child of the desert or of the school-room, but of the dense assemblages of mankind in which its social influences are called into action and into practical exertion every hour. The urchin on the pavement dancing Jim Crow for a chance halfpenny, and resisting in all his hunger the temptation of snatching the apple or the cake from the old woman's open stall or the pastry-cook's window, is morally no uneducated being. His sense of right, his self-restraint, his moral education, are as truly and highly cultivated as in the son of the bishop who is declaiming at Exeter Hall about this poor boy's ignorance and vice, and whose son never knew in his position what it is to resist pressing temptation, secret opportunity, and the urgent call of hunger. Practical moral education, a religious regard for what belongs to others, the doing as you would be done by, the neighbourly sympathy with and help of real distress, and the generous glow at what is manly, bold, and right in common life, and the indignation at what is wrong, or base, are in more full development among the labouring class in London, than among the same class elsewhere, either at home or abroad. They put more of the fair-play feeling in their doings. The exceptions to this character; the vice, immorality, blackguardism, brutality, of a comparatively small number—and many of these not born and bred in the lowest ranks, but in much higher positions from which they have sunk, besmeared with the vice, immorality, and dishonesty which caused their fall—cannot be justly taken as a measure of the moral condition of the lower or labouring classes in London. The genuine Cockneys are a good-natured hearty set of men; their mobs are full of sport and rough play; and the ferocious spirit of mischief, wickedness, and bloodshed rarely predominates. Considering their great temptations and opportunities, and the inadequacy of any social arrangements or military or police force that we possess to oppose them, if a majority were inclined to active deeds of mischief, the London population may claim the highest place among the town populations of Europe, for a spirit of self-restraint on vicious propensities, and for a practical moral education in the right and reasonable. The tumults in 1848, in Paris, Vienna, Dresden, Berlin, entitle the London mobs to the praise of being neither blood-thirsty, nor insensible to the rights of property, compared to the furious half-military mobs of those cities. Compared even to the better-educated, or rather better-schooled people of Scotland, the more practical, although more ignorant, Londoners stand high in the moral scale. It is an axiom in the law of nature and nations in Scotland, that "whate'er is Scotch is best." One is never allowed to forget this in Scotland or to remember it elsewhere. Scotch farming, Scotch land-letting, Scotch philosophy, law, divinity, morality, and education, are all of the best. Yet one may be allowed, out of Scotland, to doubt if this superiority be supported by statistical facts. In 1841, the population of Scotland, 2,620,000 persons, consumed 5,595,000 gallons of spirits. The population of England, 14,995,000 persons, or nearly six times the number of the Scotch population, consumed only 7,956,000 gallons of spirits, or about one-third more; and the Irish population, 8,175,000 persons, consumed only 5,200,000 gallons in the same year, being less than the consumption of the 2½ millions of the Scotch population. Unless whisky-drinking be a virtue north of the Tweed, it is difficult to make out the assumption of superior morality

for the people of Scotland. If the traveller compare the indications of civilisation in the middle and lower classes of the English and Scotch, he will find himself obliged to confess that there is a deficiency north of the Tweed, especially among the female half of the community, on whom civilisation mainly depends, in those smaller usages, habits, and ways of living, which add to the comfort and well-being of common civilised life. There is a sluttishness about the womankind and all the women's work in a Scotch dwelling of the lower or even of the middle class family,—a dirty contentedness of husband and wife with any discomfort or nuisance of use and wont,—which stands remarkably in contrast with the order, regularity, tidiness, and cleaning, dusting, and scouring propensities of the housewives of the same classes in any English town or village. The Scotch people of the middle and lower classes may have more and better school instruction, are more religious, and more intellectual in their religion, more frugal and prudent, except in the use of spirituous liquors; but the English of the same classes live in a more civilised way, are of more refined and civilised habits, are better brought up, although worse educated. Their manners towards each other, their habits of regard for others, and their self-respect, and the regularity, nicety, and spirit of order in their households which proceed from self-respect, are more cultivated. The English females of those classes are brought up in their little brick tenements to keep a cleaner and more cheerful house and a more regular housekeeping, on earnings as small as the means of the same class of labourers and tradesmen in Scotland. The table and table-cloth, the plate, and knife and fork, are laid out with decent regularity and cleanliness even in the poorest dwelling of the working man, should it only be to grace a dinner of bread and cheese. What a routing, and driving, and bawling, and scolding, all the morning, in 'a sma' Scotch family that keeps but one bare-legged servant lassie,' before things are got into any decent order! In England, in a small tradesman's or working man's family, you wonder how the housework of the female, the sweeping, cleaning, bed-making, cooking, and such work, is done so quietly and so nicely, with only the wife's pair of hands. All is in order, as if the fairy folk had been helping all night with the scouring and rubbing.

"The English houses no doubt, the small brick tenements, are more handy, more convenient for saving work, and better provided with partitions within and yards and offices without, than the stone or turf-built Scotch cottage, all of one room under an unlined slate or straw roof, without divisions inside, or the most needful accommodation for a cleanly people outside. But the females themselves are more nice in their nature, more regular in their ways, better trained in doing things in their proper times, and putting things in their proper places, are better educated, in short, in their habits, than our Scotch females of the same class. One woman does the work of two in a house, when she can lay her hand on what she wants in an instant; and the two have to seek half the day for what they were using the day before. But how comes it that the female half of the English people of the middle and lower ranks have this better education in habits of order, cleanliness, and civilised household life, than the much better school-taught people of the same classes in Scotland? It seems to be, that education, in its ordinary meaning of the acquisition of knowledge, or of the powers and facility of acquiring knowledge, has much less to do than we generally suppose in this age of the school-master, with civilisation in its true meaning of high social well-being arising from good government, free institutions, civil liberty, and in moral manners, and household life, and in all public and private life, from a strong feeling in all

classes of what is due to others as well as to ourselves. In these main requirements of true civilisation, the school-educated have no decided advantage over the world-educated; over those who have acquired their knowledge, judgment, tastes, habits, by experience and their own reflection and their own common sense. The Scotch, French, and German people, with all the advantages of a much higher and more generally diffused school-education, are at any rate much less civilised, possess fewer of those requirements of a high social state, less of that refinement, order, and cleanliness, in the habits of domestic household life, which belong to material civilisation, than the more ignorant English."

This is London; how d'ye like it? The view must gratify all Cockaigne.

We must reserve some of the other topics for separate notice; but, meanwhile, recommend the Volume to every reader in search of truth, and accessible to the effects of strikingly novel treatment.

THE NEW GOLDEN AGE.

Personal Adventures in Upper and Lower California, in 1848-9. By W. R. Ryan. 2 vols. Shoberl.

MR. SHOBERL signalizes his publishing career with great activity, and has this week presented us with a characteristic account of California, whither so many hopes and wishes tend.

"What is here?
Gold? yellow, glittering, precious, gold.

—This yellow slave
Will knit and break religions; bless the accursed;
Make their hoar leprosy adored; place thieves,
And give him title, knee, and approbation,
With Senators on the bench. 'This, this is it
That makes the wretched widow wed again.
'Come damned Earth!'"

We do not know what the general taste of the public may now be in regard to California, but are inclined to fancy that more interest is attached to a scrap of the latest news than can be exhibited by a whole history, *a priori*, of the advances made to the *Saturnia Regna* of gold. The prospect and the end in view absorbs all previous intermediate matters. "Onward, let me clutch thee," is the motto. "Gold, give me gold," the watchword and cry. Therefore, although Mr. Ryan's story is full of strange adventure, and his accounts of all classes of the population in the wild and unsettled country through which he passed afford a very striking picture of man (various races) in an extraordinary condition, with passions uncurbed, and aiming at one engulfing object, we still feel disposed to skip over and get to the *diggings* with all possible speed. Yet, Monterey is worth a halt; San Francisco deserves a deliberate survey; and the night and day perils of the adventurers, the Indian feuds and murders, and the whole circumstances of the march and arrival will keep readers on the *qui vive*. It is the subsequent proceedings which will most attract their attention.

Of the work we do not deem it necessary to speak farther, though an extract or two may be due to its adequate notice.

"The death of one of the natives, soon after our arrival here, afforded me an opportunity of witnessing the singular ceremonies observed on such occasions. The body, being enshrouded in white muslin, is bedecked with flowers, and laid out upon a table. The friends and relatives are next invited, and a feast takes place, which is always followed by a general fandango around the corpse. When a priest can be procured, he usually presides at these funeral festivities; but more frequently than otherwise his services are dispensed with altogether, for, when all is over, the body is conveyed to the burying-place, and lowered into the grave without any form of prayer whatsoever. Coffins are very rarely used by the poorer classes, wood of every description being scarce, and planks and boards of almost incredible value."

The view hilla is thus given:—

"Whilst we were here awaiting the arrival of the despatch which was to release us from service, news reached us of several extensive and prolific gold mines having been discovered in Upper California, and of large fortunes having been realized in an incredibly brief space of time, by the lucky few who chanced to be on the spot, or in the more immediate neighbourhood. At first, the report was treated very lightly, the majority of our men laughing at the idea of gold being found in abundance on the ground; and the whole affair being considered as a hoax got up to induce an emigration into those parts, we heard little or nothing more about it for awhile."

The gold fever set in in full delirium, and soon acted far more strongly than glory in hurrying visitors from every quarter of the world, and especially from Mexico after the peace, among which lot Mr. Ryan fared. Behold him at length at the *diggings*, and witnessing a party of three Sonoreans, or inhabitants of Sonora, "busily engaged on a small sandy flat—the only one I had observed—at the bottom of the ravine. There was no water near, although I noticed several holes which had evidently been sunk in quest of it. These men were actively pursuing a process that is termed 'dry-washing.' One was shovelling up the sand into a large cloth, stretched out upon the ground, and which, when it was tolerably well covered, he took up by the corners, and shook until the pebbles and larger particles of stone and dirt came to the surface. These he brushed away carefully with his hand, repeating the process of shaking and clearing until the residue was sufficiently fine for the next operation. This was performed by the other men, who, depositing the sand in large bowls hewn out of a solid block of wood, which they held in their hands, dexterously cast the contents up before them, about four feet into the air, catching the sand again very cleverly, and blowing at it as it descended. This process being repeated, the sand gradually disappeared; and from two to three ounces of pure gold remained at the bottom of the bowl. Easy as the operation appeared to me to be, I learned, upon inquiry, that to perform it successfully required the nicest management, the greatest perseverance, and especially robust lungs. The men I saw had lighted upon a productive sand; but very often, indeed, those who adopt this mode of gold-washing, toil long at barren soil before they discover the uselessness of labouring thus ardently."

"I noticed, that although the largest proportion of the gold obtained in this manner presented the appearance of a fine powder, it was interspersed, here and there, with large scales of the precious deposit, and with a few solid lumps. The metal was of a dingy hue, and, at a cursory view, might easily have been mistaken for particles of yellow clay, or laminae of stone of the same colour. The Sonoreans placed the product of their labour in buck-skin bags, which were hung around their necks, and carefully concealed inside of their shirts. They work in this fashion at the mines in their own country; but I doubt if any other than a native constitution could very long bear up against the peculiar labour of 'dry-washing' in such a climate and under such difficult circumstances. I felt half tempted to try the process myself, for the surface of this sandy bed was literally sparkling with innumerable particles of the finest gold, triturated to a polish by the running of the waters—as I conjectured: but I soon discovered how fruitless my efforts would be. Had I possessed any chemical agents at hand, however, I might soon have exhausted the bed of its precious contents, and should doubtless, have realised an immense weight of the metal of the very purest quality."

The processes vary with the nature of the soil, but the preceding is the most new to us, and we leave boring, machinery, washing, &c., &c., to be

studied in Ryan or California, by those who are emulous of becoming the *Croesus*es of the 19th century. With a few traits of another kind we conclude:—

"Gambling and drinking were carried on, I found, to a most demoralising extent. Brandy and champagne, whenever they were brought to the 'diggings,' realised enormous prices, varying from sixteen to twenty dollars a bottle; and some of the men would, after accumulating some hundred dollars, squander the whole in purchasing these beverages. Believing the supply of gold to be inexhaustible, they persisted in this reckless course, and discovered only when it became too late to redeem their error, that even here gold cannot always be procured. They went on until the *placers* failed to yield, and were then reduced to great extremities."

"For my own part, now I was here, and could the more fully enter into the philosophy and fact of the thing, I began to entertain strong misgivings as to whether the results attained by such severe toil were at all commensurate with the sacrifices made in connexion with it. According to my belief, and looking at the men as they wrought, no amount of success they might hope for could ever sufficiently compensate them—accustomed as the majority had been to the comforts and even refinements of civilised society—for the privations and hardships they were compelled to endure; for the disruption of those social ties which bind men together; for the estrangement of the affections of their kith and kin; for the mental abnegations they must practise; for physical suffering and prostration; for the constant apprehension they dwelt in of dying a lingering death by fever and ague; and for the disorganisation of habits which such a mode of life was calculated to induce even amongst the best regulated minds. They wrought so hard and so perseveringly, that I felt persuaded that the same amount of industry, intelligence, and assiduity, conjoined with the exercise of the many virtues which the difficulties they had to encounter brought into activity, if it had been directed to the accomplishment of the same end, through the channels opened by the different professions and callings, must have resulted in securing to them an honourable position and a competency, without exposing them to the temptations of cupidity, or the follies of a speculative extravagance."

The author and his companion tried like the rest, and here is the result:—

"'Luck, by G—!' said he, tossing up a small lump of gold, which he had succeeded in picking out with his knife from a hole at which he had stopped, whilst I stood gazing at the extraordinary scene around me, absorbed in my reflections."

"This was quite enough to drive all philosophy out of my head, and I forthwith looked out for a likely place, and began to dig away as busily as the rest."

"I wrought in good earnest the whole of that day, and was completely unsuccessful. Nevertheless, I renewed the operation on the following one, and got about; six dollars' worth of gold; whilst Halliday procured to the value of ten. The day after, we were both tolerably fortunate, bringing in between us about three ounces; but, during the remainder of the time we sojourned at the mine, Halliday did not average more than eight dollars a day, and I seldom exceeded from four to six. In the middle of the day, the heat became so intense, that I was compelled to discontinue my labours, and rest awhile, whilst the exhalations arising from the dampness of the ground where I washed the clay were no less oppressive and injurious. In fact as the time advanced, I felt myself growing weaker; and as our provisions were nearly exhausted, it became necessary to determine upon some course for the future."

In short the *diggings* failed and were given up, and our author again traversed the country of

which he has given us additional particulars of general interest. The Californian gold, however, which has found its way, to a considerable amount, into the Bank of England, is of a rich quality, nearly, if not quite equal, to the gold of Africa.

ROMAN HISTORY.

The History of the Romans under the Empire. By C. Merivale, B.D. 2 vols. 8vo. Longmans. THE epoch embraced in these volumes, commencing, as it appears, a work of great magnitude, is confined to the period from the first Triumvirate to the death of Cæsar. Within it a total change of government and destiny was wrought upon the fortunes of Rome and the Romans. The ages that had been regal by succession, republican, elective, aristocratic, or otherwise modified in forms, were passed away. The world was at the feet of a resistless Mistress; and her ambitious Sons played their game for province-kingsdoms or dominant sway at home. Cæsar followed Marius as a reformer, and, at the same time, aspired to absolute empire. The crisis arrived, and he was slain. Then sprung up the spirit of many emperors. Wars overspread and devastated the earth. Death's harvest of the great and mighty was reaped; and Augustus reigned alone. But only the confines of the later era are touched, where the present portion of Mr. Merivale's labours closes.

Cæsar is the Colossus of the drama before us, and the "petty men" who walk under his "huge legs" and circle round him are as yet but inferior powers, malcontents, conspirators. Well does the author observe, "the career of Cæsar is the prelude to the history of four centuries."

Such in importance, it is here developed with great distinctness and ability; and whilst the author regrets the absence of authorities upon the subject* in the English language, he avails himself liberally of those on the Continent who have so largely illustrated it, and justly names among them, with applause, Michelet, Amedée, Thierry, Duruy, Hoeck, Aliken, and the most industrious Drumann.

In the earlier portion we have an animated sketch of events which enshrine the names so familiar to our studies of old, and always so full of interest. Metellus, Sulla, Pompey, Sertorius, Perperna, Mithridates, Lucullus, Lepidus, Spartacus, Brutus, Crassus, Cicero, Catiline, Cato, and Cæsar, enter upon the busy scene when the Roman oligarchy were sunk in frivolities or dissoluteness, the Senate and the Knights were at issue, the Patricians and the Plebeians were struggling for ascendancy, and it was evident that some great revolution must ensue. We cannot offer a more suitable example of the author than occurs here:—

"The policy and conduct of the popular party at the great crisis of the commonwealth may be best understood by tracing the career of its illustrious leader, who stood forth far more prominently among his own associates, and gave more distinct expression to their views, than was the case with any one of the chiefs of the opposite faction whose character has already passed under our review. To that grand array of aristocratic gravity, of military renown, of learning and eloquence, of austere and indomitable virtue, were opposed the genius and resources of one man. He bore, indeed, an ancient and honourable name; his talents for war were, perhaps, the highest the world has ever witnessed; his intellectual powers were almost equally distinguished in the closet, the forum, and the field; his virtues, the very opposite to those of Cato, were assuredly not less conspicuous. But he possessed one qualification for success more essential than all these; the perfect simplicity of his own character gave him tact to appreciate the

real circumstances and tendencies of public affairs, to which his contemporaries were signally blind. He watched the tide of events for many anxious years, and threw himself upon it at the moment when its current was most irresistible. Favoured on numerous occasions by the most brilliant good fortune, he never lost the opportunities which were thus placed within his grasp. He neither indulged himself in sloth like Lucullus, nor wavered like Pompeius, nor shifted like Cicero, nor, like Cato, wrapped himself in impracticable pride; but, equally capable of commanding men and of courting them, of yielding to events and of moulding them, he maintained his course firmly and fearlessly, without a single false step, till he attained the topmost summit of human power."

His course is traced to the end; but it will readily occur to our readers that such a narrative is utterly unsuited to illustration in a periodical of our limits. An Essay on the character of Cæsar must be little better than a funeral eulogy over a French Academician, and the events which marked his career are too notorious to admit of repetition. The author's comments on either subject cannot be separated from the context. Thus we are forced to brevity in this notice of a valuable accession to our historical literature—only a first instalment it is true, but one which affords certain promise of a standard publication. We conclude with one extract of a general kind, in which we think the talent of Mr. Merivale will be recognised and appreciated:—

"The native ferocity of the people is stamped upon its earliest traditions. The author of the race, it was said, was rejected and exposed by his natural guardians. The sustenance denied him by man was afforded him by the most savage beast of the desert. He grew up to slay his oppressor, to summon the injured and the outlawed to his standard, and wreak with them wild vengeance upon mankind around him. In the same manner, the morose pride of the Roman people, and their antipathy to foreign habits, are strongly marked on every page of their history. They scorned the humanizing pursuits of commerce, and the genial tendencies of social refinement. They were inflamed by a passion for destroying the monuments of their conquered enemies, their arts and literature. They established the most odious distinctions between themselves and their subjects, insulted them by their legislation and defamed them in their histories."

"The Roman polity, however, presents another side which lays much greater claim to our interest. However selfish and exclusive the sentiments were which constituted its basis, necessity compelled it at sundry periods to admit aliens and even enemies into alliance and association with itself. The annals of the Roman people afford us the most perfect illustration of the natural laws which seem to control the rise and progress of nations. The almost uninterrupted succession of their triumphs, the enormous extent of the dominion they acquired, and the completeness of the cycle through which they passed from infancy to final decrepitude and decay, combine to present them to us as the normal type of a conquering race. One principle seems to be established by their history, namely, that it is the condition of permanent dominion that the conquerors should absorb the conquered gradually into their own body, by extending, as circumstances arise, a share in their own exclusive privileges to the masses from whom they have torn their original independence. Thus only can they provide a constant supply of fresh blood to recruit their own exhausted energies, and strengthen the basis of their power while they extend the limits of their conquests."

And with this we quit Mr. Merivale's very able performance, at least, for the present, as we shall look with much interest for subsequent portions of his *History of the Romans under the Empire*.

The History of the Roman Emperors. By the late Rev. R. Lynam, M.A. Edited by the Rev. J. T. White, M.A. 2 vols. 8vo. Simpkin, Marshall, and Co.; Whittaker and Co.; &c.

MR. LYNAM undertook to fill up a gap in Roman History, between Hooke and Gibbon, and the preface describes it as more sterile in English literature than it really is. Even Goldsmith's History is not so concise and barren as may be thought; and to expatiate upon his text is not quite sure to be an important improvement. From abroad we have Crevier's work, and the scholar can also refer to Tirlemont. Still Mr. Lynam and his editor, Mr. White, have done good service by this production, in which research has been extended to the common original sources, and they have been conscientiously consulted, sifted, and composed. A religious application is made of the whole; and, either for education, more mature study, or a useful library book, we can honestly recommend their united labours. The history commences with Augustus at the head of the Empire, and goes through to Nero, the last of the Cæsars; and then continues with Galba, and ends with the death of Marcus Antoninus Philosophus, A.D. 180. An ample general index adds to the usefulness of the work, which may truly be described as well fitted to supply a desideratum, and, ranging between the brevity of some preceding histories of the same period and the diffuseness of others, to belong to the *juste milieu* of convenient, and, for most purposes sufficient historical illustration.

Heads of an Analysis of Roman History, for the Use of Schools. By Dawson W. Turner. Parker.

As a preparative for reading such histories as the above, or a refresher of the memory afterwards, we deem this to be a very useful little work, and well-deserving of school and educational patronage.

OFFENCES AND LAW.

Modern State Trials. Revised and Illustrated with Essays and Notes. By W. J. C. Townsend, M.A., Q.C. Longmans.

THE author is Recorder of Macclesfield; and in this publication has made a record of lasting honour to the profession of which he is a member.

England is blessed with many noble privileges and fundamental elements for security and greatness, without which all political schemes and governmental institutions must be inefficient and useless devices. They are not without their alloys—nothing human can be—but they are the indispensable essentials to a nation's prosperity and a people's weal. And when we cast a glance on these, and briefly scan the provisions of Magna Charta, the Bill of Rights, the Trial by Jury, the Freedom of the Press—glorious bulwarks of our liberties; if we look one step farther on, to the incorruptible administration of justice and the independence of the bar, we must acknowledge that in them the governing and the governed, the ruler and the subject, have another palladium not less important and valuable than the most highly-prized foundations of the British Constitution. To our Judgment-seat the eulogium is due almost without a reserve. The bench is truly illustrious. There may be errors of capacity—minds in some less trained and astute than in others—but this is to be mortal man; in the grand quality of an abstract love of right, and a determination never to swerve from it—in a position which no Crown can controul, nor popular feeling influence, our Judges are, as Cæsar's wife, not to be suspected, and, as far as can be imagined in this world and frame of society, above temptation. If, with regard to the bar, there are occasional abuses, still in its higher branches it is worthy of infinite public confidence and respect. Emerging from the Stygian pool below, it is ab-

* Dr. Arnold's History does not descend lower than the later Commonwealth.

solutely wonderful how individuals purify as they ascend the upper sphere—many of them indeed never having been tainted, though a few may rise to elevation by the force of talent rather than by the circumstances of character. Universally speaking, we may affirm that every cause is safe with the Judges in our Superior Courts, and, generally speaking, that, through the firmness and integrity of our advocates, no wrong will be permitted in the face of the country and its opinion, the evils which do prevail being more attributable to the state of the laws themselves than to their construction and application.

These volumes afford striking proofs of the truth of our remarks; though we can hardly call some of their modern instances of legal abilities by the name of State Trials. Those of John Frost, Edward Oxford, Smith O'Brien, and Daniel O'Connell come within the category; but those of Lord Cardigan for a duel, Mr. Alexander (titular Earl of Stirling) for forgery, the Wakefields* for abduction, and Mr. Moxon for blasphemy, in publishing Shelley's "Queen Mab," &c., interesting as they are, and brilliant examples of forensic genius, seem scarcely to be recognisable under this title-page.

The opening trial, however, that of John Frost for High Treason, is strictly within the rule, and in itself remarkable for the result, gained for his client by Sir Frederick Pollock, by a process of legal learning and acuteness which saved the country from the pitiable spectacle of an execution, without making a martyr of the criminal or perverting the even course of justice. We have always deemed this to be one of the most legitimate triumphs ever achieved by a counsel; for the pleadings violated no sound principle, set up no phantom of new-fangled philosophy, gravely argued the difficulties of the case, and saved the party from the extreme penalty of retribution without yielding a jot of encouragement to rebellion and guilt.

The trials of Oxford and McNaughton must be fresh in the memory of readers, and involve the strange questions now perplexing lawyers and jurors as connected with insanity. They are well deserving of serious consideration, as possibly leading to some decision which shall draw the line between crime and lunacy. In the case of Courvoisier, Mr. Townsend espouses the side of Mr. Charles Phillips, applauds his eloquence, and contends that he discharged his duty towards his client and the public with perfect propriety, as he was bound to do, and nothing more. On the trial of Lord Cochrane, Mr. Townsend also insists on his innocence of the charge; but as we have no vocation to settle the technical or legal opinions of the editor, we shall content ourselves with leaving his introductory Essays and Notes to be weighed by his professional brethren. Of the work altogether, it will be more than a sufficient recommendation to add the list of a number of the individuals, the utmost efforts of whose intellect are conspicuously displayed in its varied and voluminous page. In Frost's case the late Chief Justice Tindal, the present Chief Justices Campbell

* With regard to this case there is a sort of apology in the Preface, which would appear to militate against all publications of the sort:—

"The prosecution," says the editor, "of the Wakefields for conspiracy, and the abduction of Miss Turner, forms a singular chapter in legal history; interesting not less to the student of human nature, on account of its characters and incidents, than to the lawyer for those elaborate discussions on the Scottish law of marriage, and the right of the wife, even should there have been a legal marriage, to appear as a witness against the offending husband, which were argued with such profuse learning and ability. But for these *memoirs*, and the knowledge that all the facts connected with no remarkable a conviction were to be inserted at length in the next collection of State Trials, the Editor would have preferred omitting this peculiar case, lest it should open wounds long since healed, and incite private feelings. His comments are strictly confined to the evidence actually adduced; but he has been informed that a far more favourable interpretation might have been given to the few circumstances which implicated the daughter of the late Dr. Davies, had witnesses been called on her behalf."

and Wilde, Talfourd, the Lord Chief Baron, and Kelly. In Oxford's case again, Campbell, Wilde,* and Pollock, and Adolphus, and Gurney. In the unfortunate duel case of our lately lost friend James Stuart, and his, by us, equally lamented adversary, Sir Alexander Boswell (both princes in social intercourse and pleasures where the feast of reason was spread), besides the eminent Scottish judge of the day, Francis Jeffrey, and Henry Cockburn were engaged. In Lord Cardigan's case, Sir William Follett appeared; in Courvoisier's, as we have mentioned, Mr. Charles Phillips; in the titular Earl of Stirling's, Mr. Patrick, now Lord, Robertson; in Lord Cochrane's, we find the distinguished names of Scarlett, Brougham, and Denman; in the case of Purney, Mayor of Bristol, Lord Tenterden; in Moxon's, Talfourd's was a great essay; and in the Irish trials of O'Brien and O'Connell the highest talents in Irish jurisprudence were employed.

May we not therefore say, in conclusion, that whoever admires learning and genius will find abundant materials to interest and delight them in these volumes. The subjects, too, may be looked upon as tragedies, romances, and extraordinary affairs in life—"truth stranger than fiction"—and embellished and illustrated with all that could render it more impressive on the mind and imagination.†

SUMMARY.

Encyclopædia Metropolitana. First Division: Pure Sciences—Philosophy of Language. London and Glasgow: Griffin and Co.

From the custom of binding up with works advertisements, prospectuses, &c., &c., this volume was (hastily) put aside from our work-table, in consequence of our not observing what it really was, and mistaking it for a mere reprint—a consequence of the confusion occasioned by the practice alluded to. On getting through supernumerary title pages, specimen pages, &c., we at last discovered that this is a second edition of Sir John Stoddart's "Universal Grammar," not merely reprinted from "The Encyclopædia Metropolitana," but a completely re-written and carefully improved version of that very able treatise.

In its new cast the information on philology, grammar, and language universally, is of vast variety and extent, but so constructed that no review in the world could afford an adequate notion.

An excellent preliminary chapter defines the qualities of mind on which language depends, the

* As reviving a recollection of pleasant olden times, the Editor of the *Literary Gazette* is tempted to quote a morsel of Mr. Sergeant Wilde's address, where he contended against an opinion of the Solicitor-General as to what trifles might be considered proof of *non compos mentis* in a civil suit. Sir T. Wilde said:—"The question put by the Solicitor-General, whether the same evidence in a commission out of Chancery would have warranted a verdict of *non compos mentis*, is hard to answer. If length and breadth be taken into account, the number of days and hosts of witnesses, stronger and more ample proof seems required in civil than in criminal proceedings. The trick of laughing suddenly without cause was so common, that if this were taken of imbecility the lunatic asylum would overflow with gigglers. He did not wish to introduce any thing ludicrous into such a case, but he believed a letter was once directed to Sir Frederick Pollock's brother thus:—

"This is for David Pollock, Esquire,
For him in Elm Court enquire,
On the first floor, look no higher,

There you'll catch him;
He'll pay you twopenny for this letter,
He never paid it for a better,
If he does not, like a setter,
Watch him."

"Doggerel poetry in the direction of a letter was no proof of insanity; for this address was actually written on a letter to Mr. Pollock by a celebrated literary character of the day."

We must hold up our hand and plead guilty! but the indecorum was committed before the graver time of Rowland Hill, and in

"The days when We went gipsying, Ed. L. G.

† It is a melancholy task to state that the author of this work has not lived to witness its success. He died at his brother's, Wandsworth Common, on Wednesday, aged only 46, after a short illness.

truth and philosophy of which are to us quite convincing; then follow, in regular order, a concise chapter on sentences, and very complete illustrations of every part of speech, nouns, verbs, articles, &c., &c., in thirteen successive chapters. The volume concludes with one more on the mechanism of speech; and the whole makes us look ardently forward to the second division, which is to comprehend Etymology, Construction, the Theoretical Origin of Languages, and other considerations of high importance to intellectual cultivation and correct learning.

Sin and Sorrow. A Tale. 3 vols. Colburn. A New essayist in the domain of fiction, and one of considerable powers. Founded on act of Sin, the Sorrows which ensue to the parties concerned are depicted with great force and feeling, involving the innocent as well as the guilty. There is also good invention in varying the characters and circumstances, as the plot unfolds from secrecy into certainty; and the author, moreover, makes the tale a vehicle for discussing, and not too "lengthily," some of the most interesting social questions of the day. We have only one objection to utter. In the heat of working up portions of the narrative, their occurs a degree of direct and fervent allusion which had better have been omitted. Some things ought to be left to inference from their consequences, and not be more distinctly stated.

Lancashire Authors and Orators. By John Evans. 8vo. Houlston and Stoneman.

A SERIES of sketches of literary and political living persons, natives of, or connected with, Lancashire, which are lightly thrown together, and tell us things about actors on the present public stage, of whose antecedents little or nothing was generally known. In this respect, therefore, the work is calculated to gratify the curiosity of the time. The classes which occupy the page are the literary, the political, the clerical, and the commercial; in all, some eighty individuals. Of their mixed order an idea may be formed when we mention Lord Ellesmere and W. J. Fox, Lord Stanley and Cobden, Harrison Ainsworth and the Rev. Charles Birrell, Baptist preacher, Charles Swain and Mr. Bright, the Bishop of Manchester and Miss Geraldine Jewsbury, and a host of others, all brought acquainted together by book-making in this great literary bed of Ware.

Of the production, altogether, we shall merely say that it has entertained us, as we viewed the portraiture of the Grand League orators, of the nobility and parliamentary representatives, of the clergy of all denominations, and of the writers in prose and verse, whom the author has delighted to honour. Some omissions we could not help noticing, such, for example, as Mr. Heywood, the distinguished member for North Lancashire, and the still more eminent William Francis Ainsworth, whose publications, including the "Xenophon March of Ten Thousand," place him close at the head of standard literature, not only in Lancashire but in the British empire. Such oversight, we fear, shows more acquaintance with the transient than the solid literature of the day; but, as we have intimated, the volume itself belongs to the temporary class, and it may suffice that it is worthy of favourable acceptance in that protractive line.

The Last Days of Pompeii. New Edition. By Sir E. B. Lytton, Bart. Chapman and Hall.

In this work, in which the author so happily mingled the eternal feelings and passions of mankind with the classic costume, manners, and peculiarities of a former age and people, forming one of the finest fictions that belong to the train of historical romance, the genius of imagination contests the palm with the accuracy of learning. It has ever been, and will ever be, one of the most universally popular of Sir E. Lytton's productions, and must be welcomed everywhere in its cheap new attire.

ARTS AND SCIENCES.

ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.

April 22nd.—Capt. W. H. Smyth, President, in the chair. Read:—"Notes taken during his Travels in Northern Arabia, in 1848," by Dr. G. A. Wallin, of Finland. Dr. Wallin, already known by his able letters addressed from Jerusalem to his friends in Finland, containing an account of his experience in the East, started from Cairo towards the end of the year 1847, in order to penetrate into a portion of Arabia not hitherto described by Europeans. He successfully accomplished this, and the results of this journey of the enterprising Finn is given in his MS. presented to the Royal Geographical Society, and from which two maps, about to be published by the East India Company, are in a state of forwardness. The route lay along the shore of the Sinā Peninsula to Altoor, Asharm, Muweilah, Jebel Shammur, through the Dahna Desert to Meshed Ali and Baghdad. The paper was rendered the more valuable from the comparisons contained in it of ancient Arabic authorities with the personal experience of the author, as well as by the description given of the tribes among whom he (Dr. Wallin) passed so many years. Major Rawlinson, who had made the acquaintance of the traveller on the banks of the Tigris, bore witness to his great acquirements as an Arabic scholar, commented on the little benefit to geography hitherto derived from explorers of Arabia, and associated Wallin with Burkhardt, as possessing many points of resemblance—the same iron constitution, the same versatility, the same indomitable energy, the same imperturbable temper; alike familiar with the Arabic as with their mother tongue, and both loving the stillness of the desert rather than the stir of crowded capitals—the humble tent of the Bedouin rather than the palaces of European cities.

The Geographical Society, he said, will be better able to appreciate Dr. Wallin's labours when his journals, of which we have heard extracts read this evening, are printed in *extenso*. His route from the Red Sea, through Teboub to Jebel, Shammur, and so on to Meshed Ali, is entirely new, and projected as it has been by Mr. Walker, the Hydrographer to the East India Company, it forms a very valuable addition to our geographical knowledge. If Dr. Wallin should be ever able to realise his hope of returning to Arabia, Major Rawlinson anticipates great results, for, in his opinion, he is the only European living who can perambulate the Peninsula without the chance of meeting with obstruction, and his present visit, moreover, to Europe will have acquainted him in regard to the country with the exact requirements of modern science.

2. "Letter from Col. Napier on the subject of the South African Expedition to the Lake Ngami."

LITERARY AND LEARNED.

UNIVERSITY INTELLIGENCE.

CAMBRIDGE, May 1.—The following degrees were conferred:—

Masters of Arts.—Blomfield, Rev. J., Trinity College; Didham, Rev. R. C., Emanuel College; Pennington, F., Christ's College.

Bachelor of Laws.—Vasey, A. D., Trinity College.

Bachelors of Arts.—Devie, C. W., Magdalene College; Montgomerie, R., St. John's College.

THE MESOPOTAMIAN ARCHEOLOGICAL REMAINS, AND LATEST ACCOUNTS FROM MR. LAYARD.*

THE discoveries in Mesopotamia, as the public is already aware, have accidentally proceeded, up to the present point, in a most systematic and methodical manner. This has been more a matter of chance than of design, which could not be attributed to the most skilful archæologist working, as Mr. Layard pursued it, with scarcely a guide to his researches. First, the ancient

Regal Palaces of the Mesopotamian Ruins were laid open to the light of day, and the records with which their walls were panelled, gave an opportunity of ascertaining the history of that epoch. These valuable monuments would, however, have remained a mere subject for the unsatisfied curiosity of antiquarians, had not Major Rawlinson's natural acuteness and unwearied industry revealed their contents to the world. This may be termed the first step in these discoveries.

The second is the discovery of the mythic and religious emblems of the Assyrians, on which Mr. Layard has made such judicious conjectures and commentaries; but for a full interpretation of which we must await the result of Major Rawlinson's (and other) critical inquiry into the language. Nothing connected with extinct nationalities is so important as the question of their religious belief, for experience has taught us that it is usually founded upon a history long antecedent to the period at which it is adopted, and which has, through the tradition of many ages, assumed all the characteristics of mythic theology, in which substantial conquerors fade into dynasties and dynastic heroes into the shadowy forms of mythic deities.

Thirdly, the private manners and customs of the people, illustrated by objects of domestic use. Of these, Mr. Layard has collected forty cases from Nimrod, consisting of not merely kitchen utensils, as has been supposed, but of articles of furniture more numerous and varied than any which have been discovered in the catacombs of Egypt. Nor is this store exhausted, although so important a depot will, however, not be quitted by Mr. Layard until it has ceased to yield anything calculated to repay the trouble of excavation and transmission; after which he will proceed to the more modern, but not less interesting, mounds of Babylon.

The last is the evidence furnished us by the repositories of the dead, and these have now been arrived at in the regular course of research.

Colonel Williams, Her Majesty's Boundary Commissioner, who has lost no opportunity of supporting Mr. Layard in his operations, occupies his spare time at the present moment at Workah, an immense ruin south of Babylon. He had previously despatched Mr. Loftus, the naturalist attached to his Diplomatic Mission, accompanied by a young gentleman (son of the late Mr. Churchill, acting as interpreter) with the caravan of mules and horses by the way of the Mesopotamian deserts, and these explorers have been fortunate enough to discover entire mines of antiquities, consisting of bricks with very perfect inscriptions, which cannot fail to throw considerable light upon the period of history to which the city, to whose previous existence they bear testimony, belong. In addition to this, they discovered coffins of glazed earthenware, out of which they took armlets and anklets, furnished with inscriptions in a very perfect state. From these it is probable that information as to the burial ceremonies of the dead may be collected, in illustration not only of their domestic life, but also of their religious ceremonies connected with the final destination of both body and soul. In the short space of three days, Mr. Loftus (by the assistance of Arab excavators) had collected from these mounds sixty very curious Relics, the most important of which consisted in armlets, anklets, arrow-heads, bronze and clay statuettes, bracelets, and a sword; and, in addition to these, innumerable inscriptions. On his return to headquarters, whither Mr. Loftus considered himself bound to proceed to obtain an extension of leave in order to revisit the scene of his successful labours, he laded his mules with some fine fragments of a statue in black basalt, all of which will be transmitted to England with Layard's third exportation of Assyrian Marbles. Colonel

Williams also proposes to send home drawings of all these antiquities, together with a detailed account of the whole transaction, in order to provide against the casualty of the sea voyage, and, he might have added, the carelessness of the Bombay authorities, of which we have already had so melancholy a proof.

Colonel Williams is now anxious to have an opportunity to commence excavations at Susa, which it is to be hoped he will be able to realise; the more so, as he has obtained instructions to enable him in seconding Mr. Layard's operations by all means which may to him appear advisable and necessary to the advancement of science. There appears to be a store of available antiquities in Mesopotamia, which may not only give full occupation to the gentlemen who are at present employed in this service, but afford materials of research for many years to come; and this, indeed, without wandering far from Babylon. The site of the ancient Ctesiphon, of Seleucia, of Koota, are in its neighbourhood; in short, in whatever direction we turn, says the Colonel, the gigantic remains of the greatest Empires of other ages rise up before the traveller, as if to challenge investigation.

Letters from Mr. Layard have also been received so late as the 18th of March, in which he mentions the Arab reports of remarkable antiquities in the desert of Khabour, which have never been visited by European footsteps, and towards the exploration of which he was just setting out, with an escort of Arab Sheiks and their followers, in all, to the number of seventy or eighty in company. During his absence on this new track, the excavations at Nimrod are to be continued by the parties employed on that work, which has recently furnished interesting acquisitions to Mr. Layard's collection. One important inscription is mentioned, and more winged-lions and bulls. Mr. Layard had received Major Rawlinson's first Exposition; and though he agreed with him in many respects, he was not quite satisfied with his chronology, and rather adhered to the opinions put forth in his own work.

We presume that we may look for further extraordinary revelations, as the result of the steps which we have now the pleasure of communicating to the public.

KING'S COLLEGE, LONDON.

At the annual meeting of the proprietors, the Archbishop of Canterbury in the chair, the Secretary read the report of the state of the college during the past year. During the last Lent term 54 students in theology matriculated, 120 in general literature, 42 in the applied sciences, 139 in the medical department, and also 37 occasional students in this department, and various other branches of knowledge 42. There were 463 students in the school, making a total of 917. To these were added 20 students in the new military department, and other students who had since entered, giving a general total of students of 1,246. In the theological, general literature, applied sciences, medical and military departments, great progress had been made by the students and it was gratifying also to observe that many former students of the college had lately taken high honours in various branches of study both at Oxford and Cambridge. The new military department had been very successful. The Council lamented the limited accommodation afforded by the King's College Hospital both to the students in the medical department and also to the number of patients. This difficulty had been taken into consideration, and it had been determined to set on foot a fund for the erection of a new hospital. For this purpose some benevolent person, signing himself as "A Friend to the Hospital," had sent a sum of 2,000*l.*, and the donation was subsequently increased by the same individual to 5,000*l.*, on condition that the Council voted a like sum. The Council have deemed

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it prudent to comply with the request, and altogether about 25,000*l.* out of the 50,000*l.* required for the new building had been subscribed. The receipts were 35,655*l.* 13*s.* 9*d.*, whilst the expenditure amounted only to 34,938*l.* 17*s.* 2*d.* The meeting adjourned to the large hall of the college, where the Archbishop presided at the distribution of prizes to those gentlemen who had distinguished themselves in the study of medicine in its various branches and divinity; at the close of which his Grace, in returning thanks for the vote to him, mentioned the gratification which he felt on seeing the representatives of three great nations present and evidently taking great interest in the proceedings of the day. His Excellency the American Minister acknowledged this compliment on behalf of himself and the French and Turkish ambassadors, and the meeting separated.

THE UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

We were prevented from attending the first conference for granting degrees on Wednesday, May 1st. The Chancellor, Lord Burlington, in the chair; and a considerable number of scientific and otherwise distinguished individuals attending. An official report of previous measures was read by the Registrar, and stated that, during the past year, 167 gentlemen had been admitted to matriculation, of whom 11 had distinguished themselves when under examination for honours in mathematics and natural philosophy, and one had obtained an exhibition; and four had distinguished themselves in classics, one of whom had obtained an exhibition. 25 gentlemen had passed the first examination for the degree of Bachelor of Medicine, of whom one had obtained an exhibition in anatomy and physiology, another in chemistry, and a third in materia medica and pharmaceutical chemistry; several others had distinguished themselves and obtained gold medals; 13 gentlemen had passed the examination for the degree of Bachelor of Medicine, of whom one had obtained a scholarship; two had passed the examination for the degree of Bachelor of Laws, of whom one had distinguished himself in jurisprudence, and had obtained the University Law Scholarship; 53 had passed the examination for the degree of Bachelor of Arts, two of whom had obtained the University Scholarships; seven had passed the examination for the degree of Master of Arts; eight had obtained the degree of Doctor of Medicine, and one that of Doctor of Laws. Various degrees were then personally and appropriately conferred upon parties present, and the proceedings closed with a vote of thanks to the noble president.

THE PERCY SOCIETY.

Election of Officers for the Ensuing Year.—Council: Lord Braybrooke, President; T. Amyot; W. H. Black; W. Durrant Cooper; * T. Crofton Croker; J. H. Dixon; F. W. Fairholt; W. D. Haggard; J. O. Halliwell, Secretary; Sir E. Bulwer Lytton, Bart.; James Prior; W. Sandys; C. Roach Smith; R. J. Smith; the Rev. J. R. Wreford; T. Wright, Treasurer.

The Report of the Council congratulated the Society on their continued prosperity; for, although the limited funds at their disposal had not permitted them to carry out the objects for which the Society was founded as efficiently as they might desire, it was something that amidst the general depression under which nearly all the publication societies had suffered, the Percy Society possessed its number of members undiminished, while its works continued to retain their value in the market. It was farther stated that the third and concluding volume of Mr. Wright's valuable edition of "Chaucer" would be ready for delivery in the course of the present

month, and considered as the issue for May 1st. The Council had under their consideration a proposal for printing the complete works of some of the best early English poets and dramatists whose writings had not yet appeared in a collective form, or been but imperfectly edited, and they hoped to present the members, before long, with the works of William Browne, author of the "Britannia's Pastorals," including a third book of that celebrated work, from a manuscript that had not been seen by any of his editors.

SHAKESPEARE SOCIETY.

The Shakespeare Society, at its Ninth Annual Meeting, had a favourable report from the Council, in which the production of the Chandos Portrait engraving, by Cousins, was especially eulogised; and the publications of the Society and the services of editors were also much commended. The idea of a Heywood and Dekker Fund had been obliged to be abandoned, and the report added:—"The only work yet distributed for the subscription of the current year consists of the two plays by Heywood on the story of 'The Fair Maid of the West.' In the meanwhile, Mr. Halliwell is proceeding with a translation from the German of Simrock's production on the foreign sources of Shakespeare's plots; and Mr. Collier has nearly finished his collection for a third volume of Extracts from the Registers of the Stationers' Company. Mr. Cunningham's 'Notes of Olden on our Old Dramatists' will, the Council are assured, be ready to appear as the last publication of the current year, or certainly not later than the first publication of the following year."

LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

Monday.—Geographical, (Major Rawlinson on "Recent Geographical Discoveries in Babylonia." Mr. Mac Queen, "Notes on Eastern Africa") 84 p.m.—British Architects, 8 p.m.—Medical, 8 p.m.

Tuesday.—Medical and Chirurgical, 84 p.m.—Civil Engineers, (Sir John Rennie, "Description of the Navigation at Newry") 8 p.m.—Zoological, 9 p.m.—Syrro-Egyptian, 7½ p.m.

Wednesday.—Society of Arts, 8 p.m.—Microscopical, 8 p.m.—Ethnological (Anniversary), 2 p.m.—Royal Botanic, 3½ p.m.—Archæological Association (Council), 4 p.m.—United Service Institution (Major Adams on "Permanent Fortification") ½ p.m.

Thursday.—Royal, 84 p.m.—Antiquaries, 8 p.m.—Friday.—Royal Institution, (Mr. Wharton Jones "on the Senses; and on Errors of Observation having their Source therein") 84 p.m.

Saturday.—Westminster Medical, 8 p.m.

ARCHÆOLOGY.

EXCAVATIONS AT STRIDFALL, AT LYMNE, NEAR HYTHE.

FOR upwards of a month researches have been in progress at this interesting place, the object of which is to lay open the remains of the walls, and to ascertain, from what may be still extant, the character of the internal arrangements of the *castrum*. It is well known to antiquaries that the ruinous and picturesque walls below the village of Lymne, termed Stridfall Castle, indicate the site of the *Portus Lemanis* of Ptolemy, Antoninus, and the *Notitia*. The walls of the Roman *castrum* are situated on the sloping ground which separates the high land of this part of Kent from the Romney marshes. Immediately above is the village of Lymne, with its church, and the Archdeacon's castellated mansion perched upon the verge of the inland cliff, whence may be seen the entire limits of the marshes, Dymchurch, Romney, Lydd and Dungeness; and to the right, Rye and Winchelsea, and the coast of Sussex; on the left, almost close to Stridfall, is the little village of West Hythe, with its ruined chapel, and about a mile farther to the east is the town of Hythe. The eye can easily trace the line of demarcation of the estuary which formed the ancient *Portus Lemanis*. The sea-sand is superficially perceptible in large patches, and the entire tract of the bed of the Roman post contrasts very clearly

with the neighbouring soil, which is composed to a great depth of a rich alluvial deposit. The recession of the sea opposite Lymne is comparatively of recent date, and is partly to be ascribed to the excellent sea-wall maintained at the expense of Government. Were this barrier removed, the sea would still, at certain times, flow up to the very foot of the Roman *castrum*, to the height of from 7 to 9 feet. At Dymchurch (four miles distant), on the contrary, the sea is making inroads, and, since the time of the Romans, has gained at least from a mile to a mile and a half of land.

The Roman station at Lymne has been less investigated than any of the numerous sites of Roman towns and fortresses which are spread over this country. This is easily accounted for in the difficulty of access, and in the vastness and uncertainty of the remains, extending over some ten acres of hilly ground, and indicated here and there by large masses of fallen masonry; some of them of shapeless solidity, half covered with underwood and trees. In other places the walls have the appearance of having been undermined and completely uprooted, having fallen away a considerable distance from the original situation; in one instance a lateral division of a portion has taken place, so as to give a notion of two interior walls, each being of respectable height and width, for, originally, the walls of the *castrum* would seem to have been about 30 feet high and 10 or 12 feet thick. The dislocated and almost chaotic state of these ruins has, doubtless, given rise to the popular belief that it was produced by the shock of an earthquake; but it is more reasonably to be assigned to some minor natural cause, such as a land-slip; for the ground on both sides appears to be full of fissures and springs, and one or two land-slips are said to have occurred within the memory of man. We were recently told that a piece of ground, with a cottage upon it, came down the hill one night so gently and noiselessly that the inmates were quite unconscious of the event, and did not discover that the house had moved until the Goodman, in trying to open the front door in the morning, found it opposed by a rock.

These natural obstacles have, doubtless, hitherto deterred antiquaries from making excavations at Stridfall, and Leland, Camden, Stukeley, and others, have contented themselves with offering crude notions about the place. Stukeley, in his *Itær Curiosum*, published a plan, which, of course, is not to be relied on, because it was utterly impossible to make any plan without excavating, the walls being in some places separated longitudinally, in others having fallen inwards, and in others again outwards, and many of the huge fragments being so concealed by earth and herbage as to present to the eye no means of discriminating the line of the original way from the separated masses.

The antiquarian world is indebted for the researches now making to Mr. James Elliott and Mr. Roach Smith, aided by contributions from a few (a very few) individuals, but not to an extent commensurate with the magnitude of the undertaking and the historical and archæological interest of the remains. The chief discoveries made (under the personal direction of Mr. Elliott) are those of a postern entrance on the east side of the *castrum*, and of one, almost opposite, on the west. The former was flanked by two semi-circular round towers, based upon a platform of layers of large stones, from 2 to 4 feet long and 1 deep. These towers were about 10 or 12 feet apart; but the entrance itself appears to be contracted to about 3 or 4 feet in width. The opposite entrance is also narrow, but seems to have been without towers. There was no indication whatever of these postern gates in any remains above ground; they were brought to light by the workmen being ordered to follow out the line of the great external wall as far as possible.

* Those in *italics* are new in the room of members who have gone out in rotation.

The form of the *castrum* is also now tolerably well defined, and, instead of quadrangular, as supposed, may be termed multangular, thus forming an exception to the rule of Roman castrametation. Seven round towers have been excavated, most of them of immense solidity and strength, but several are overturned and denuded of the squared facing stones; indeed, it is curious to observe how systematically the facing stones of the walls have been carried away.

It is the intention of Mr. Elliott and Mr. Roach Smith to excavate the area of the *castrum*, provided funds can be raised.* As it is believed the ground has never been moved by the spade or plough, it is probably many interesting objects will be discovered; and it is trusted that those whose means enable them will contribute towards defraying the expenses, which will be rather heavy.

SAINT GEORGE SANS THE DRAGON.

Cambridge Antiquarian Society, April 22.—Mr. C. C. Babington, Treasurer, in the chair. A paper was read by the Rev. C. Hardwick, entitled "Anglo-Saxon Notices of St. George." He stated that whilst examining the Anglo-Saxon Manuscripts in the University Library, he met with the name of Georgius, and that on mastering the legend in which it is contained, it proved to be a metrical account of the "Passion" of St. George the patron Saint of England, professedly drawn up for the sake of guarding the faithful from certain heretical productions at that time current. Gibbon's statement that St. George was introduced to England at the time of the Crusades is set aside by this legend, which was translated from the Latin into Anglo-Saxon by the famous Aelfric, Archbishop of York from 1023 to 1051, and thus some years earlier than the first Crusade. The date of the formal acknowledgment of our Saint as patron of the English was 1220, when the day of his commemoration was made a holiday of the lesser rank by a Synod at Oxford; and the Convocation of 1415 secured to him the very highest ecclesiastical honours. In contradiction to the later opinion of Gibbon, Hoyle (Life of St. George), and Selden (Titles of Honour), maintained with great reason that he cannot be identified with George the Arian, commonly called Capodocia; indeed the only point of similarity between them is their name, which was quite as common then (in the third century) as now. The confusion between the two Georges appears to have originated with the Arians, who were guilty of corrupting the Catholic martyrologies, and adapted that of our St. George (a martyr of the preceding century) to the canonization of their heretical leader by interpolations concerning his contest with Athanasius, whom they represent as a sorcerer. This interpolated legend, expurgated by collation with purer legends of the eastern church, has come down to us in the manuscript under consideration. Our Saxon forefathers received an account of St. George from the early traveller, Arculf, who, on his return from Palestine about the year 701, was driven by contrary winds to Iona, where Adamnam took down from his dictation an account of the Holy Land, in which is contained a singular legend concerning our Saint. This legend is not to be found in the translation published in Bohn's Antiquarian Library, which was unfortunately made from a very imperfect copy, or rather perhaps from Bede's epitome of Arculf's

narrative. This metrical legend, it is stated, is about to be published, with a translation by Mr. Hardwick, by the Percy Society.

FINE ARTS. ROYAL ACADEMY.

The *Times* has coined a good word for a section of our native school, viz., *Expressionists*, as contradistinguished from that portion which seeks rather to produce its effects as *Colourists*; but, though there is a pretty clear line of demarcation between them, there is a sort of border blending on each side which would be sufficient to form an intermediate class, or one which belongs to neither. It is not amiss, however, to keep their apparent difference in view, and apply rules of a different character to the productions of the two divisions. In our last we adverted to the Exhibition *en bloc*, as honourable to British talent, and it is now our pleasant duty to proceed to some of the details in proof, and also to notice such drawbacks as provoke critical animadversion.

No. 15, The Disarming of Cupid, painted for Prince Albert. *W. E. Frost, A.* This is a sweet composition, full of grace and loveliness, which it would be difficult to place in either of the above two categories. It is neither richly coloured nor referable to the dry outline of the elder school; but softly painted, and perhaps rather more feebly than some of the artist's preceding works. But it is exceedingly graceful and pleasing; a picture to look upon with gratification to the sense, so long as beauty is admired.

No. 16, Samson Betrayed, *F. R. Pickersgill, A.*, is a more masculine production, and with more of bold contrast in colour. The Hebrew Hercules is anatomically worthy of the Academy, and the fair traitress a voluptuous figure, the flesh carnations finely toned and looking brilliant behind the brown skin of the sleeper. The man engaged in clipping, not scripturally shaving, his mystic locks makes a good pose on that side, though his other arm is rather oddly disposed; and the scene filled up on the left completes the scripture subject with an effective balance, though not essentially connected with the subject. The accessories are of a correct and high order.

No. 38, Susannah and the Elders. *G. Patten, A.* We cannot commend this piece to the same extent. There is brave handling and colour in it, but the attitude of Susannah is too theatrical; and those ugly old bearded, peeping, and gloating elders we never can like, paint them how you may.

No. 39, King Lear. *C. W. Cope, R.A.* Cordelia is touching, and the doubtful repose of Lear excellently expressed. We could wish there were more originality in our leading artists. Shakespeare no doubt supplies boundless themes; but the variation of repetitions fails to satisfy our ambition for the great in art.

No. 56, The Gross of Green Spectacles. *D. Mac-lise, R.A.* A realisation of Goldsmith's. Moses has been done, but in his holiday garb he looks as foolishly cunning as if he had done the seller; and the disappointment of the mother, and less irritated discomposure of the vicar, are admirably portrayed. Nor are the rest of the family out of the story—every one takes a characteristic part in it; and the lot of green spectacles has affected every eye and action from the eldest to the youngest. The tone of colour is extremely good.

No. 72, The Good Samaritan. *C. L. Eastlake, R.A.* One of the artist's best works in his own Italian style, more tender than forcible, and full of feeling and truth. There is, nevertheless, a silkiness about it, even in the flesh colour, which we cannot deem so true to nature as it is to artistic refinement.

No. 92, Meeting of Jacob and Rachel. *W. Dyce, R.A.* Possibly a little hard, but very vigorous and effective. The characters are not Jewish; but the expression of Jacob is of the

soul, and the gentler feeling of Rachel is touchingly in unison with the stronger emotion. The attitudes, too, are admirably studied.

No. 95, Ecstacy. *C. R. Leslie, R.A.* A gem, and beaming with light.

No. 106, Simchath Torah. *S. A. Hart, R.A.* A gorgeous Jewish ceremonial in the Synagogue. Vessels of gold and silver, priestly vestments of the richest hues, and decorations of the most brilliant description, are profusely borne by stately officials. With the architecture and a splendour of suitable light, this is altogether a magnificent performance, and almost dazzling to the spectator.

No. 98, A Cherry Seller. *T. Webster, R.A.* A little bit; but of delicious nature, and charmingly coloured.

No. 125, Tom Jones, &c. *C. R. Leslie, R.A.* One of the painter's masterpieces: need we say more? No. 136, Scene from Henry VIII., the same. In drapery and finish equal to Terberg or Metz; but we do not so entirely admire the sentiment of the dying Katherine.

No. 133, A Nymph. *C. Brocky.* A superb embodiment of poetic beauty, and coloured to perfection.

OLD WATER COLOURS.

No. 6, The Queen's Birth-day. *Nancy Rayner.* Places aux Dames! This lady is resolutely treading on the heels of Mr. Hunt, and displays much talent in this piece as well as in No. 17, Sleeping Italian Boy, Nos. 142 and 170, and other small but pleasing productions.

No. 4, Inverary Castle. *W. Callow.* A sweet landscape of a delightful west-highland subject, and a fair specimen of the artist's talents, as further displayed in such pictures as No. 47, Venice, and other Italian and Scottish, and also French, views of various character.

No. 25, A Fisher Boy. *O. Oakley,* and No. 155, Fortune Teller, &c., No. 258, St. Valentine's Day, the principal, and executed with the same clear pencil as ever; but we are inclined to fancy that the artist is getting a little too fine for common characters, and would rather have more truth, even if told in a looser manner, than every-day folks in a more finished style, which does not pertain to them.

No. 30, Wreckers. *T. M. Richardson.* A spirited performance; and, in others near the same locality (north of England), as well as at greater distance, the artist has shown equal versatility and power over different natural features of sea and land.

No. 31, Highland Pastime. *F. W. Topham.* A merry scene of a Highland Piper, and dancing to his music. The action is animated, but not preeminently Scotch. Nos. 125, Home; and 130, The Return, please us better, and are more in the painter's justly popular style; for No. 298, Highland Interior, is liable to the same objection as No. 31, i. e., the want of genuine national character, though in other respects very ably treated.

No. 7, Boy with Dead Sparrow-Hawk. *Alfred Fripp.* The sparrow-hawk's wing is as large as that of a kite or glead. Of other pictures moving in a parallel line with Mr. Topham, we will only particularise No. 90, The Irish Piper, which is very loosely thrown together, and looks more like haste than study and carefulness. That he can do better makes us the more ready to blame where he has not attained his own acknowledged standard. No. 373, The Village Post Office, we like much.

No. 41, The Strid. *G. Fripp,* No. 114, Bolton Abbey, and a dozen others, many of them happily selected from the sylvan beauties of Dorsetshire, all bear testimony to the fresh and faithful copying of nature for which the artist is distinguished.

No. 8, Men of War, &c. *C. Bentley.* As in preceding years, Mr. Bentley is one of the most prominent and successful of the exhibitors; and there are parts in No. 14, (North Wales) such as

* We understand Mr. R. Smith has memorialised the Treasury for a grant of money for this purpose, and that the reply is, "They have no funds available for the purposes in question!" In France it would be conceded immediately, but in England, it is to be regretted, every Government has hitherto resisted every solicitation for money for antiquarian researches, while none of the numerous Antiquarian Societies have ever been able to afford, for such objects, any pecuniary aid worth mentioning.—Ed. L. G.

no water-colour art could surpass, though, as a whole, we fancy certain defects in the composition. No. 48, Snowdon, is a magnificent performance, and Glengarriff, 185, is about as picturesque and grand; but, indeed, all the artist's productions are worthy of him.

No. 83, Loch Vach, W. Evans, of Eton, and as worthy a compeer we may point to this one of Mr. Evans' delightful works, as amply sufficient to sustain his fame among the foremost of our water-colour school.

No. 136, The Giant's Amphitheatre. W. A. Nesfield. Bold and dashing as his first production, which so powerfully attracted our notice, this is an excellent example of Mr. Nesfield's mastery over striking and turbulent elements in landscape scenery. Rocks, water, and wood are all handled in a fearless manner.

We reserve the finale for our next Gazette.

NATIONAL INSTITUTION.

In concluding our brief chronicle of the principal paintings which have so strongly recommended this Association to public approbation, we must again hail it and wish it every success in consequence of its evolving that principle of competition and the acquisition of a fair and open field, which we consider to be so essential to the advancement and prosperity of our native school of arts. The exhibition of the Royal Academy is proof enough of its right to stand high in rank; but its system of exclusiveness and cliques has not only been illiberal in itself but detrimental to progress and just estimation beyond the pale. It has fortunately begun to relax some of its rules, and we have no doubt that farther improvements will follow. At all events the question is now brought more distinctly and directly to issue, and *Dieu defend le droit!*

No. 235, The Beauchamp Chapel, Warwick. S. Royner. A rich glowing interior, the architecture beautiful, and the lights admirably managed. D. Roberts could not have inspired a more able artist in this brilliant line.

No. 244, Captivity and Liberty. Mrs. M'lan. With all that her husband has done in this exhibition we are compelled, by this picture, to say, in common parlance, the grey mare is the better horse. It is most honourable to a female pencil, and replete with delicate and touching sentiment. The feeling of the prisoner, and the affecting contrast of the free, are embodied with a simplicity that hits every heart; and in the qualities of conception, expression, handling, and colour, there is nothing more to be desired.

No. 247, A Merry-time Scene, Kent. G. A. Williams. We notice this very good landscape chiefly on account of the figures, of which, in distribution and effect, neither Teniers nor Wilkie would need to be ashamed.

No. 250, Knowle Park. E. J. Cobbett. Not to be passed without special praise, though marked at a very low figure in the catalogue.

No. 260, Mal-apropos. J. E. Lauder. One of the piquant and clever pictures in the third room, over which we are now wandering.

No. 277, Welsh Mountains. S. R. Percy. Another able contribution from the hand we have already so much commended.

No. 280, Christ Appearing to his Disciples at Emmaus. R. S. Lauder. A sacred subject, solemnly and effectively treated. Upon it, however, we cannot bestow our unqualified admiration. The tone of colour in the principal figure is repugnant to our taste, and this vitiates the whole. The two disciples, on the contrary, are finely conceived, and the expression of their doubting, both in attitude and countenance, of a high character in art.

No. 280, A Dredging Pant on the Thames. Nicmann. Very natural, very like, and very clever.

In the water-colour room are some very good things by the same artist; Tobermory, capi-

tally represented by R. R. M'lan, and also an illicit still; a characteristic Carnival piece by Gavarni; 347, a very nice production from nature, P. West Elen, and 360, Dead Game (as well as other pieces), by Mrs. Withers, which is unique for minute fidelity.

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

FRANCE.

(From our own Correspondent.)

Paris, Wednesday.

MR. CROKER's remarkable article in the last number of the *Quarterly Review*, on the flight of Louis Philippe and his family in the Revolution of February, has been translated into the *Revue Britannique*, been republished as a pamphlet, been extensively quoted in the newspapers, been read by hundreds of thousands, and been abused through some thirty pages of the *Conseiller du Peuple* by Lamartine. It has, in short, created what play-bills call a "terrific sensation," and that, at such a moment as this, is saying a good deal, considering the disturbed state of public affairs, and the anxiety felt as to the future. But, to be impartial, I must confess that it is as vehement partisan pamphlet, not as a calm historical record, that the publication has obtained success—the enemies of Lamartine and the Revolution acting on Molière's principle, "*de prendre son bien partout où on le trouve*," having eagerly appropriated all the vituperation of both, while the Tory writer has poured forth *con amore*. Indeed, Mr. Croker is now set down as one of the most efficient of the violent *reactionnaire* pamphleteers, and the *Charivari* makes no scruple of classing him with Chenu, Delahodde, and the epileptic scribes of certain newspapers, who think they serve a political cause by libelling its adversaries, and by exciting one class of citizens to slaughter another.

Of Lamartine's reply I shall say nothing more than that it is a laboured attempt to refute one of the principal assertions of Mr. Croker, by proving that he, Lamartine, not only did not take measures to prevent the flight of Louis Philippe and the members of his family, but that he actually exerted himself actively to have them placed out of the reach of danger. I must just add that, singularly enough, the Secretary of Ledru Rollin, who has written a "History of the Provisional Government," asserts, in confirmation of Mr. Croker, that M. de Lamartine was the only member of the Provisional Government who seemed indisposed to allow the ex-King, the Princes, and Princesses, to get off quietly.

Some time ago, I told you that Ledru Rollin was occupying the leisure which his exile affords him in concocting a book on the *Decadence of England*. The first volume of this famous production is to appear to-morrow, and the second at the end of the month. A few proof-sheets have been handed about, and they prove superabundantly that gratitude for her generous hospitality to him and his Red Republican accomplices—hospitality which perhaps no other nation in Europe would have afforded—has not only inspired him with no kindly feeling, but has left his heart full of envy, hatred, and uncharitableness towards her. "Envy—hatred! do I say? The sentiments that he expresses are worse than that: there is something downright fiendish in them; and, to have some sort of pretence for them, he libels in the most atrocious manner the Government and people of England. And this man is the chief of the French Democracy—of the party which inscribes "Fraternity!" on its banner, and which, day after day, assures the world that its triumph will be the annihilation of war, and the establishment of the closest bonds of brotherhood; among all the nations of the earth!

The Sultan of Turkey, I am assured, exercises a good deal of very efficient patronage in the

literary and artistic circles of this city. His generous grant of an extensive tract of land to Lamartine is well known; the other day he presented 200*l.* to the Institute Historique, when the French Government gave only 12*l.*; his purchases of pictures, statues, &c., amount to an important sum in the course of the year; he has given crosses and ribbons to many popular scribes and painters; and, finally, no literary man or artist really worthy of protection makes a direct appeal to him in vain. Besides this, he maintains in Paris, at considerable cost, a large school, in which a number of young Turks are clothed, lodged, and carefully educated for different professions. His ambassador, moreover, the Prince of Callimaki, takes a positive pleasure in doing honour to art and literature, in the persons of their most eminent representatives.

The recent successful experiments on light continue to attract a great deal of attention in the scientific world. It is, however, to M. Arago, more than to M. Foucault, that the honour is assigned of having practically demonstrated that light travels less rapidly through water than through air, as the latter only made his experiments with instruments devised by M. Arago, and mainly under his direction. The importance of the discovery, however, may be judged of from the fact that for the last twelve years M. Arago has been pondering over it and on the means of effecting it. I have now before me a minute description of the manner in which, and the means by which, it is made; but it is too long to give, and if given would not be easily understood without practical demonstration. Besides, I am told, that the experiments are shortly to be repeated at London.

Chateaubriand, you will remember, took great precautions to prevent any alterations whatever from being made in his *Memoirs*—his last work to which he attached an importance, political, literary, and social, which it is far indeed from possessing; but if the *on dit* of the literary circles are to be credited, several suppressions have been made in the parts specially relative to Madame de Récamier—the suppressions having been demanded by the lady's family in the belief that the publication of all that Chateaubriand wrote would have tended to cause imputations to be cast on her character. Assuredly the book has lost nothing by these suppressions, for the love passages between the author and the celebrated beauty which it contains, are already far too long, and oh! such dreary twaddle. But to hear some noodles talk, you would suppose that they constitute nothing less than downright blasphemy.

NOTES FROM ABROAD.

Frederic Auguste, Baron de Reiffenberg, Conservator of the Bibliothèque Royal, at Brussels, Member of many Foreign learned Societies, and with a great European reputation for many branches in literature, died at St. Josse-ten-Noode, on the 18th ult., at the age of 54 years. He has left a widow, and was interred at Laeken, on the 20th. He was an Honorary Member of the Royal Society of Literature, and wore many distinguished orders.

M. de Blainville, the celebrated Professor of Comparative Anatomy in the Paris Museum of Natural History, and a worthy successor to Cuvier, was found dead on Wednesday, May 1, in one of the night railway trains between Rouen and Caen. He had been slightly indisposed a short time previous, but no apprehension of the danger had been excited. He was 72 years of age, and retained all his faculties and active habits in full perfection to the last.

African Travels.—A letter from Tripoli of the 28th March, and forwarded by the *Times*' Correspondent at Paris, gives some interesting details of Mr. Richardson, who left Tripoli on Good Friday, on his journey into the interior. The letter says:—"The transport of the boat for navigating the lakes has been a source of great

anxiety and immense difficulty, having to be conveyed a four months' journey over the burning sands before it reaches Lake Tshad. The Admiral at Malta has constructed a beautiful craft, broad in the beam and as light as cork on the water. Mr. Richardson and his German travelling companions proceed first to Mourzouk by the route of Migdal, not yet travelled by Europeans; afterwards from Mourzouk to Ghat, and thence through the country of the Souanieks to Aheer and Ughachy, where, on the frontiers of Soudan, they will await the termination of the rainy season in the tropics, which lasts fully three months, and during which all human labour is suspended. This season of fever terminated, Mr. Richardson and Drs. Barker and Overweg will proceed to Kano and Tukanon, the principal cities of Soudan and of the Fellentals' empire. They will then turn eastward to Bornou, when they will explore the waters of Lake Tshad; and if anything happen to the boat *en route* they will construct a new one, being well provided with tools and other boat building apparatus. The shores of the Tshad being explored, Dr. Barker and Overweg will separate from Mr. Richardson, the two former proceeding further east towards the Mountains of the Moon and the eastern coast of Africa, and the last returning north to the Mediterranean on the old Bornou route. Mr. Richardson is expected to return to Tripoli in the course of a year and a half, but of course the period of the return of his companions cannot be brought within the same compass, nor even conjectured."

SKETCHES OF SOCIETY.

LORD LONDESBOROUGH'S LITERARY, &c., SOIRÉE. ON Wednesday, after a dinner entertainment to a party of artists, men of science, and literary men, the latter mostly connected with archaeological research, of which his Lordship is an ardent promoter, his splendid mansion in Piccadilly was opened for the reception of persons distinguished by these and other intellectual pursuits, or by high rank and station in society. The *soirée* was very numerous and brilliantly attended, reminding us of the best of Lord Northampton's, or his royal predecessor the Duke of Sussex, in Kensington Palace. To add to the pleasures of the evening, there was a display of fine pictures, and a museum of antiquities, and other rare and precious articles of *virtu*; of which, and it was a marked improvement, his Lordship had taken the trouble to have a catalogue printed for the single occasion. Lady Londesborough, the Marchioness of Conyngham, and other ladies, mingled with the company, and imparted a new charm to their learned colloquies; and in the rooms below sumptuous refreshments were spread with an elegant profusion. Upon the whole, we deem the *fête* a most liberal example to the nobility of the land.

A POET'S CORNER.

IN our brief notices of recently lost and lamented Poets, Bowles and Wordsworth, we purposely abstained from amplification in the former instance in consequence of anticipating that Mr. Hallam, in his address to the Royal Society of Literature, on its anniversary, would have occasion to allude to the distinguished member referred to, and that nothing of ours could be comparable to any tribute coming from so high and competent an authority. We therefore waited for the delivery of that address, which, having been ordered to be printed by a vote of the meeting, we have now the melancholy satisfaction of copying, as far as relates to Mr. Bowles, into our page. Mr. Hallam spoke thus:—

"The Rev. William Lisle Bowles bore a name which he had raised to high distinction in the garden of the Muses. He was naturally one of our earliest Members, connected as he was, by a

prebendal stall in the church of Salisbury, with the learned prelate whom we consider as the founder of the Royal Society of Literature.* Mr. Bowles had nearly completed his ninetieth year when the call of death came to his door. He was, therefore, the senior poet of England, by years at least, even if one of venerated name, which at present we are not prepared to determine, may have sooner reached his youthful hand to pluck one of those laurels which now shade his brow, and remind us of the beautiful lines, in which Dryden has evidently alluded to his own time-honoured age.

"E'en when the vital sap retreats below,
E'en when the hoary head is hid in snow,
The life is in the leaf, and still between
The flakes of falling snow appears the living green."

Mr. Bowles was educated at Winchester, and at Trinity College, Oxford; the contemporary and friend of the late Archbishop Howley, and of several persons not undistinguished afterwards, who adorned the University at that time. His first appearance as a poet, beyond the groves of the Cherwell, was, so far as we know, in a small collection of sonnets, which, speaking from recollection only on this occasion, were published before the year 1790. They were followed by a series of poems, almost always short, though often published separately, which appeared during at least thirty years from that time. The sonnets of Bowles may be reckoned among the first-fruits of a new era in poetry. They came in an age when a common-place facility in rhyming on the one hand, and an almost nonsensical affectation in a new school on the other, had lowered the standard so much that critical judges spoke of English poetry as of something nearly extinct, and disdained to read what they were sure to disapprove. In these sonnets there was observed a grace of expression, a musical versification, and especially an air of melancholy tenderness, so congenial to the poetical temperament, which still, after sixty years of a more propitious period than that which immediately preceded their publication, preserves for their author a highly respectable position among our poets. The subsequent poems of Mr. Bowles did not belie the promise of his youth. They are indeed unequal; many passages, no doubt, are feeble, and some are affected; but there are characteristics of his poetry, which render it dear to the young and susceptible,—not those characteristics only which have been just mentioned, but a sympathy with external nature, a quickness in perceiving, and a felicity in describing, what most charms the eye and the ear; his continual residence in the country assisting him in the one, his ardent love of music in the other. Mr. Bowles published also an edition of Pope, as well as a great variety of small tracts, literary, antiquarian, and theological. He was, in fact, a very frequent, though he cannot be called a voluminous, contributor to the literature of the present century. For several years he had lived wholly at Salisbury; and, as might not naturally be expected, was almost lost to the society of his friends, which he had previously cultivated with great warmth, through the increasing feebleness of his bodily and mental faculties. But, as minister of the parish of Bremhill, near Calne, he had been unremitting in his professional duties, zealous in the education of the poor, and manifesting an exemplary, though happily by no means a rare, instance of the union of all Christian graces with the polish of taste and the amenities of literature.†

* The late truly benevolent Bishop Burgess.—Ed. L. G.

† A beautifully expressed compliment to Mr. S. Rogers.—Ed. L. G.

‡ The chairman being obliged to leave before the business was concluded, Lord Colborne was called on to preside, and, on a vote of thanks being moved to Mr. Hallam, pronounced a beautiful eulogy on the literary eminence of that gentleman, and on the valuable services he had ever been ready to render to the Royal Society of Literature. The vote was then carried by acclamation.

To this graceful biographical sketch and judicious criticism we may add, that the rural and literary delights of Bremhill were much enhanced by the near and friendly intercourse with the Marquis and Marchioness of Lansdowne at Bowood, and the intimacy with another near neighbour, Moore, at Slooperton. The intellectual pleasures of such society could not be surpassed, and those who ever enjoyed a welcome to the gentle hospitalities of Bremhill and partook of the refined associations connected with that lovely spot, cannot forget the mental improvement, the taste for the fine arts, and the resources of literature which were cultivated there, and nourished by the rich possession of means to satisfy every wish that could be formed for the acquisition of new ideas and enlargement of the sphere of knowledge. The splendid gallery, the noble library, the polished manners, the pursuits of active benevolence, the amply stored mind, the utmost charm of colloquial intelligence and wit, and the emanations of genius were all combined around that placid retreat from the world's cares, and made a scene of as much gratification as can be conceived for human happiness.

Mr. Bowles was very playful in his habits and conversation; and we have seen manuscript poems of his writing in a sweetly sportive vein that contrasted admirably with his more usual plaintive style. Of one we remember to have had, and we fear have lost the copy, which was a captivating example of his talent in this way. He had arrived, unexpected and late in the evening, in town, and found his customary lodgings preoccupied; but accommodation was found for him, on the spur of the moment, in an adjacent house. It belonged to a fashionable mantua maker, and he was led to his sleeping apartment through the show-room of the establishment, where every mode of female dress was displayed on the *Dumbies*. The Poet went to bed; but in his dream he animated them all, and a more entertaining drama of living satins, silks, and muslins, was never fancied by a humorous brain.

Wordsworth, with all his gravity, had an equally playful turn when reserve was thrown off among friends.* We can recollect, for instance, his exhibition of a night at the Italian Opera, in which the singing, and yet better, the dancing, were described with the most grotesque and amusing effect. His critiques on pictures were often no less laughable; and some of his notes on foreign parts where he travelled were as ludicrous and satirical as can be imagined. Notwithstanding the bent of their poetic feelings, the temperament of both was inclined to cheerfulness and mirth; and the reader would form a very mistaken estimate of their general character if he supposed that they were either given up to solemnity or sentimentality. Both lived to a fine old age, and it would be impossible to point to any other two men on the face of the earth, who had more cause to thank God for the lot assigned to them in this state of trial. Happy in disposition, untroubled in fortune, calmly settled in the midst of nature's boundless treasures, which expanded their hearts and steeped their souls in elysium, their paths indeed were paths of pleasantness and peace. Of the last days of Wordsworth, a valued correspondent writes us:—"His complaint, the only serious one he ever had in his life, was a pleurisy, the severe remedies for which so far reduced him, that though the disease was subdued, his constitution could not rally, and yet he appeared at intervals

* Southey says truly of him, "In conversation he is powerful beyond any of his contemporaries; and as a poet,—I speak not from the partiality of friendship, nor because we have been so absurdly held up as both writing upon one concerted system of poetry, but with the most deliberate exercise of impartial judgment whereof I am capable, when I declare my full conviction that posterity will rank him with Milton."

so much better that strong hopes were entertained of his recovery. He remained in this state for about a fortnight after the disease had left him, until at length his nerves seemed worn out in the struggle, and he peaceably resigned his spirit. He completed his 80th year on Sunday in the preceding week."

He has left an unpublished poem of fourteen cantos, in the editorial charge of Dr. Wordsworth, which is said to be a kind of poetical *resumé* of his life.

The annexed sonnet could not be more fitly placed than here.

He who would win the crown of poetry,
What needs he? Faith that mountains would remove—
And he must have the gift of prophecy,
To read all signs on earth—in heaven above;
And he must have all knowledge, and must be
Wise as the serpent—harmless as the dove;
And he must have abundant charity,
For all the rest were nothing without love.
Then must he have all hope, to bide his time,
And he must purge his sick heart now and then
Of hope deferred, and ask fresh hope again,
And trust, till very trusting seems a crime.
So shall he win his laurels soon or late,
And his reward shall be exceeding great.

ROBERT FERGUSON.

THE INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION, 1851.

It is stated that about 50,000, has been subscribed towards the grand Industrial Exhibition, and nearly 200 local committees formed to promote. In several foreign countries measures have been adopted to facilitate the contributions of artisans, manufacturers, &c., for exhibition. At home, a project has been started to connect with it a religious congress of the Christians of all nations. To questioning in Parliament, it has been answered by the Minister that no Government supply was contemplated beyond the expenses of the Royal Commission.

MUSIC.

Her Majesty's Theatre.—I *Puritani*, the most ambitious, and at the same time skilful, of Bellini's operas, was reproduced on Thursday, after a silence of one whole season. It has not been heard on the same stage since Lind sang the part of *Elvira* in 1848. Sontag, for the first time, is her successor in this rôle, and, as would be anticipated, a very acceptable one, though we think she is not so happy in this music as in that which shows off her peculiarly valuable style of execution and light treatment; for example, the *Rosina* in the *Barbiere*, or *Linda*; the music allotted to *Elvira* is generally of a sustained character, and that in the higher register of the voice, so that when this singing has to be kept up against the forty-horse power of Mr. Balfe's troop, fatigue inevitable renders the voice part less effective than it would otherwise be. We expected to find the celebrated polacca, with which the name of Grisi is always associated as "son vergin vezzosa," the most startling of Madame Rossi's performance; but certainly this must yield to the "qui la voce," which was sung with exquisite taste.—The well known "a te o cara" was admirably sung by Signor Baucaerde, and was received with great applause. The performance of this new tenor continues to raise his reputation; though fatigued towards the end of the opera, his singing can only be considered as highly promising.—Colletti is completely adapted to the part of *Riccardo*. His singing of the beautiful scena, "ah per sempre," was particularly fine; in the grand duo "il rival," better known as "suoni la tromba," with Lablache, he was also most effective; indeed, with vivid recollections of Tamburini in company with the same colossal vocalist, we cannot help thinking that this fine duet was never better sung; à propos of the perhaps somewhat too noisy treatment of it, it was remarked by Rossini, a little touched with jealousy at the success of Bellini, that this duet might be heard at Boulogne.—The morning concert, on the

tapis for Monday, will be very interesting on account of the trios for the three basses, Lablache, Coletti, and Belletti, and the soprani, Sontag, Hayes, and Parodi.

Royal Italian Opera, Covent Garden.—Zoré, the *Huguenots*, and *Der Freischütz*, have been the attractions here during the week. *The Stabat* of Rossini was very finely performed on Friday morning. Mario was in beautiful voice, and sang the "cujus animam" to perfection. Grisi was great as ever in the "inflammatus," which, with the chorus, has a truly imposing effect. To Mlle. de Meric fell the "fac ut portem," which she sang exceedingly well, but somewhat timidly. The more this fine work is heard the more plentiful appear its beauties, and these are ably brought out by its performance under Mr. Costa. The overture to *Euryanthe*, the duet from *Masaniello*, with Massol and Tamberlik, "Qui s'degno" (Mozart) by Formes, Mario's serenade from *Don Pasquale*, and the charming madrigal, "down in a flowery vale," by the chorus, were the principal pieces given, and were all exceedingly well performed.

Philharmonic Concert.—The fifth was given on Monday. The instrumental performances consisted of the *sinfonia* in F, No. 8, Beethoven; Haydn's quartet 81, by Biagrove, Sainton, Hill, and Lucas; Mozart's concerto in C minor, pianoforte and orchestra by Lindsay Sloper; MS. overture, J. H. Griesbach, *The Tempest*. The second part consisted wholly of *Walpurgis's night*. This was the first appearance of Mr. L. Sloper at these concerts, and his success was of the best order; he introduced a cadenza of his own in the concerto, which was admirably executed, and the performance was highly applauded. In purity of style and conscientiousness of treatment Mr. Sloper ranks very high among our pianists.

The Concerts of the Week have been too numerous and too clashing to enable us to discuss their individual merits, as in their goodness they deserve, we must present them as a *pot pourri*. On Monday besides the Philharmonic, the London Sacred Harmonic Society gave the Creation; on Tuesday, the Musical Union held their fourth assembly, at which the chief feature was the playing together of Ernst and T. Heller; on Wednesday, Sig. Riccialdi, a pianist of the Italian school, who, on his instrument may be called the analogue of Piatini in excellence and style, gave the first of a series of musical mornings. In the evening was the Wednesday concert at Exeter Hall, at which Angri, the contralto, made her *débüt*; and at Hanover-square, the Royal Society of Musicians performed the Messiah. The Sacred Harmonic Society performed the Israel in Egypt. To-day, Miss Basano gives a concert at the Beethoven Rooms.

THE DRAMA.

Haymarket.—Great interest was excited by the production of *The Catspaw*, on Thursday evening, as was to be expected on the announcement of a new comedy by so distinguished a writer and dramatist as Mr. Jerrold, who has contributed to our stage some of the most successful dramas and comedies of the present day. But while the dramas have been remarkable for the interest of the story, as well as the vigour of their language, the comedies have in general derived their success more from contrasted characters and brilliant dialogue, than from well constructed plots. Thus it has arisen, that while *Black Eyed Susan* and the *Prisoner of War* retain their popularity, the *Bubbles of the Day*, in spite of its overpowering wit and quaintness of character, has not, we believe, been performed since the season of its first production. Why an interesting story should be considered necessary for two but disregarded in *five* acts, is a problem which the author perhaps can solve, since his repeated recurrence to this, as a principle of composition, indicates his

conviction that it is a sound one. The *Catspaw* of the new comedy is a Mr. Snowball (Mr. Keeley), a weak-minded nervous gentleman, entirely under the influence of one Dr. Pelgoose (Mr. Wallack), and whose housekeeper, Rosemary (Mrs. Keeley), has a lover in the ranks, *Appleface* (Mr. Buckstone); a young widow, Mrs. Peachdown (Miss Reynolds), is Snowball's opponent in a contested inheritance, and he hesitates between chancery and marriage, as the better means of getting the money into his own hands. From his indecision in this and the various turns that are given by Rosemary introducing *Appleface* as a lawyer, who presumes to aspire to the lady's hand, discarding altogether his own mistress, although she has "bought him out with her savings," and by the tyrannous influence of the physician exercised throughout, the piece, with a faint underplot of love between Snowball's ward and a lawyer's clerk, and the affection of *Appleface's* Captain for Mrs. Peachdown, the story is carried through the five acts; not, however, with strong interest or by means of very comic situations. The merit of the piece is in its contrast of characters and the occasional brilliancy of the dialogue, which is written with great care; and although at times overstrained, gives a liveliness to the comedy that brings it triumphantly to a conclusion. The acting was generally good. Mr. Wallack seemed puzzled with a part that is completely out of his line; Mrs. Keeley and her husband, as usual, full of character and humour; Miss Reynolds, as the widow, with her love for the middle ages, lively and interesting; and Mr. Buckstone as amusing as ever. Mr. Webster played and dressed admirably the part of a begging letter imposter, assuming three different characters, which were however of little use to the plot, and the irrelevant matter attached to which greatly weakened the conclusion of the piece, which, as a whole, is certainly inferior to its author's previous productions.

Adelphi.—A drama in two acts, called *The White Sergeant*, or *The Buttermilk Volunteers*, was produced here on Monday, and was well received. The materials of which it is constructed are not very new, and are not so arranged as to afford any sense of novelty from the manner in which they are used. A certain number of husbands leave their home for Militia drill and with the intention of passing themselves off in the town where they are quartered as bachelors, and enjoying themselves accordingly. In this they are disappointed by the arrival of their wives, who, at the instigation, and under the guidance of a French lady (Mme. Celeste), have followed them attired in military-looking riding habits. These ladies attract the attention of the real officers, whose wives, however, are on the alert, and the two sets of wives, mutually aiding each other, contrive to turn the laugh against the husbands, and general reconciliation is the result. There is nothing either very novel or ingenious in the way in which the denouement is brought about, and no great brilliancy in the language; the chief fun of the piece arising from an episode of humble loves, in which Misses Woolgar and Fitzwilliam, and Messrs. Wright and Munyard figure very amusingly. Mrs. Frank Matthews, Messrs. Bedford and O. Smith have also parts in the piece, which is not, we think, calculated to endure as long as is common in the favourable atmosphere of the Adelphi.

Strand.—A very amusing one-act farce, called *Not to be Done*, has been added to the attractions of this theatre; it is apparently by a young writer, and, although somewhat redundantly written, shows a keen perception of the ridiculous in its author. The subject is an assumed marriage by a gentleman, who looks upon himself as especially knowing, with a servant girl, for the purpose of winning a wager—the opponent in which, discovering the trick, assumes the dis-

guises of an old cobbler and his wife, for the purpose of throwing ridicule on the other party. These assumptions were acted by Mr. Leigh Murray, with great humour and truth, who, especially in the character of the cobbler, displayed an amount of humour for which we had not previously given credit. The part of the servant girl was rendered extremely amusing by Miss Marshall, and the whole farce, which was most deservedly successful, was well acted, including a most effective bit of simple primness by Mrs. Bartlett. The character of the eccentric hero who is the "but" of the piece, was well acted by Mr. H. Farren. Mr. Tom Taylor's graceful version of *The Vicar of Wakefield* continues to be played here; and were it only for the admirable acting of Mrs. Glover as *Mrs. Primrose*, deserves a second visit from every one.

Sadler's Wells.—A performance is announced to take place under the direction of a number of distinguished literary characters, in aid of the funds for the Exhibition of 1851. Great credit is due to the management for their liberality in giving the receipts of a night's performance towards this object. The night fixed is Thursday next.

VARIETIES.

Industrial Competition.—The commercial effects of the new order of things upon our manufacturers and tradesmen may be appreciated by the appearance of such paragraphs as we quoted a fortnight ago, and the following examples of many of a similar kind industrially circulated:—*Ancient Female Costume*.—We had occasion a few days since to announce the revival of much that is *distingue* in ancient costume, by some of our west end artists, from special access to the Royal MSS. and illuminated missals of past ages. As the notion is too good a one not to encourage meretricious semblance, it may be but fair to state that it is a happy emanation from the spirit of the Messrs. Jay, of Regent-street, who purpose from time to time the production of a series of the most *recherche* head dresses, robes, and mantles, adapted to the present period. The lofty patronage which has already flowed in this channel augurs well for the success of this movement in fashion, which will render the spring *réunions* exceedingly interesting.—*Morning Post*.

A storm passed over Dublin on the 18th ult., and did damage estimated at nearly 30,000*l*. The atmospheric and electric disturbance appears, from an excellent paper read by Dr. Lloyd to the Royal Academy, to have been very general throughout Ireland, and to have obeyed Col. Reid's theory of curvilinear progress.

Perquisites.—By the Report of a Committee of the House of Lords, it appears that a door-keeper's place in an average of eight years amounted to 1,100*l*. per annum—the perquisites of the highest year reaching above 2,500*l*. Better be a door-keeper in the Lords' House than a dweller elsewhere!

Numismatic Sales.—When we look at some of the extravagant fancy prices given by *Virtuosi* for trumpery varieties of stupid mediæval English coins, and other quaint specimens of mintage of no historical value, we cannot but wonder at and lament the comparative apathy with which undertakings to *unearth* the most interesting facts connected with the history of our Island and illustrative of the habits of our ancestors are viewed. The price of a score of paltry rarities of coinage would suffice to investigate the noblest remains of imperial Rome, and not a few of the most ancient barrows in Britain.

Chloroform.—A chemist writes to the *Times* that he disbelieves in the instantaneous effect ascribed to chloroform in producing insensibility when presented to the breath on a handkerchief or other cloth; and, from an application made to himself, suggests that the *Lig. Ammon.*

Fortiss. is by far the more probable agent employed, as it is assuredly the most effectual.

The Sideral System.—That formerly vacant interval between *Mars* and *Jupiter* is now peopled by ten small planetary bodies. "It seems destined that our ideas of the structure of the planetary system should undergo a great change. It is not strange that planets far beyond the furthest known should, as time advances, be discovered, but it does appear strange that planets and satellites should be discovered intervening between those formerly known. And we may well doubt whether there are not planets whose orbits lie between those of *Venus* and the Earth, and whether that body which we call the moon is the only satellite of the Earth. The importance of these discoveries is not to be judged of as merely a matter of detail, in which new particulars are simply added to old ones of the same class. Our conceptions of the structure of our system in particular, and of the sideral system generally, may ere long be totally altered by the discovery of the almost universal prevalence of planetary and cometary bodies through all the space which our instruments command.—*Rept. of Council, Astron. Soc.*

The Queen's Birthday, too, is to be kept on Wednesday: it is a busy and joyful day, and the Britton Club also assemble at one of their circle of festivities to have their feast and flow as usual.

The King's College Hospital on the same day appeals to the sympathies of the benevolent, through the medium of a grand dinner in the magnificent hall of Lincoln's Inn, which the benchers have liberally assigned for that purpose. Major Edwards, educated at King's College, is to preside; and is, we are assured by parties who have heard him, a prompt and excellent a speaker.

New Comet.—Dr. Peterson, on the 1st instant, at Altona, discovered a telescopic comet, which at 11 o'clock mean time, on the 2nd, was in the following position:—right ascension, 19 hours 24 min. 8 sec., and north declination, 71 deg. 19 min. 34. sec. It is therefore in the Constellation Draco; and the right ascension is stated to diminish 48 seconds, and the declination to increase about 8 minutes in 24 hours.

Burglary at Charlecoate.—Whether Shakspeare stole the deer of the Lucy's or not, true it is that their house has been broken into and robbed of many precious relics, connected with them and him. It is supposed that one of the burglars has been apprehended; and it is to be hoped that the most interesting of these literary and artistic heir-looms will be recovered.

The Horticultural Society held its annual meeting on Wednesday week, Sir C. Lemon in the chair. The Report read by the Secretary was satisfactory. Some expenditure, rendered necessary by the uncertainty of our climate, for Mr. B. Edgington's admirable tents, was more than covered (as the tents covered all) by increased income; and Dr. Hooker's splendid Rhododendron seed from the Himalaya range, and Mr. Calvert's floral Persian novelties from the vicinity of Erzeroum, were acknowledged as well calculated to augment the every year improving beauties of our gardens.

Homœopathic Hospitals.—The establishment of two Homœopathic Hospitals, it appears, is contemplated; the Hahnemann and the London Homœopathic, under the patronage respectively of Lord Robert Grosvenor and the Earl of Essex, the homœopathic sect being divided into two parties, with no slight rivalry existing between them. It is rumoured, the *Pharmaceutical Journal* states, "that one of the parties is in treaty for extensive premises in Oxford-street, within a few doors of the Royal College of Chemistry. Popularity among the poor is predicted of such an institution: inmates will be well-fed and housed, without being troubled with physic. To

those whose ailments arise from want and exposure, the treatment will be highly appropriate; and, if a few should assume imaginary ailments as a means of escape from destitution, the average number of cures will increase, the fame of the hospital will rise, and the parish rates will fall."

LITERARY NOVELTIES.

LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

- Amy Harrington, 2nd edition, 12mo, cloth, 6s
 Baird's (R.) Impressions and Experiences of West Indies and North America in 1849, 2 vols, cloth, 21s
 Bennett's (W. J. E.) The Eucharist, 2nd edition, 8vo, cloth, 12s
 Bourne's (J.) Catechism of Steam Engine, 3rd edition, 12mo, cloth, 6s
 Bushnell's (H.) God in Christ, post 8vo, cloth, 6s
 Children of the Manse, 12mo, cloth, 6s
 Christian Philanthropist's Pilgrimage, post 8vo, cloth, 3s
 Clark's Summer Months in Spain, post 8vo, cloth, 7s 6d
 Cuthbert's (W.) Looking to the Cross, 32mo, 1s
 Dallas's (Rev. A.) Point of Hope in Ireland's Present Crisis, post 8vo, cloth, 2s 6d
 Dodsworth's (W.) Clarendon, a tale, 3 vols, post 8vo, 17 11s 6d
 Durlacher's (L.) The Foot, its Pains and Penalties, 12mo, cloth, 2s 6d
 Emma; or Recollections of a Friend, 32mo, cloth, 1s 3d, gilt, 1s 6d
 Familiar Views of Lunacy and Lunatic Life, 12mo, cloth, 3s 6d
 Family Prayers, from the Book of Psalms, 12mo, cloth, 7s
 Farewell to Outward Bound, sewed, 1s
 Frere's (J. H.) Notes on Apocalypse, 8vo, cloth, 6s
 God's Dealings with Israel; Lecture delivered during Lent, 1850, 12mo, cloth, 6s
 Grinfield's Apology for Septuagint, 8vo, cloth, 5s
 Handbook of Gardening, 10th edition, 18mo, cloth, 2s
 Harvey's (Rev. Lord A.) Sermons, 2 vols, 12mo, cloth, 12s
 History of the Holy Eastern Church, 2 vols, 8vo, cloth, 31s
 Irving's (D.) Lives of Scottish Writers, 2 vols in one, post 8vo, cloth, 5s
 Jane Eyre, 4th edition, 12mo, cloth, 6s
 Klapkas' (General) War in Hungary, Vol II, cloth, 10s 6d
 Lester's (M. F.) Guardian Angels, 16mo, cloth, 2s 6d
 Lighted Valley; or, Closing Scene in Life of Abbey Bolton, 12mo, cloth, 3s 6d
 Meek's (Rev. R.) Meditations on Lord's Supper, 18mo, cloth, 2s 6d
 Moses's (H.) Sketches of India, post 8vo, cloth, 7s 6d
 Neil's Fruit, Flower, and Kitchen Garden, 4th edition, 12mo, cloth, 3s 6d
 Newman's (F. W.) Phases of Faith, post 8vo, cloth, 6s
 Perfumer's Legacy, 18mo, cloth, 2s 6d
 Reece's Medical Guide, 17th edition, 8vo, cloth, 12s
 Reginald Hastings, 3 vols, post 8vo, boards, 2nd edition, 17 11s 6d
 Reichenbach's Researches in Magnetism, parts 1 and 2, 8vo, cloth, 12s 6d
 Revelation of St. John, by Delta, 12mo, cloth, 5s
 Robins' The Church School Master, 12mo, cloth, 5s
 Roger's (H.) Essays, selected from the Edinburgh Review, 2 vols, 8vo, cloth, 11 4s
 Roscoe's (T.) Fall of Granada, post 8vo, cloth, 7s 6d
 Rowe's Nervous Disorders, 12th edition, cloth, 5s 6d
 Sandbach's (H. R.) Aurora and other Poems, 8vo, cloth, 6s
 Scoresby's Mary Russell, post 8vo, cloth, 3s 6d
 Sollogub's (Count) Tarantias; Travelling Impressions of Young Russia, 12mo, 5s
 Soyer's Cookery, 7th edition, 8vo, cloth, 21s
 Stevenson's Lord our Shepherd, 4th edition, post 8vo, cloth, 5s
 Symond's Sailor's Progress, 18mo, crown, 2s 6d
 Taylor's (H.) The Virgin Widow, a play, 12mo, cloth, 6s
 Taylor's Bee-Keeper's Manual, 4th edition, 12mo, boards, 4s
 Thompson's (Mrs.) Ellen of Dingle, 18mo, cloth, 1s
 Visitation Infirmary, 12mo, calf, 16s, morocco, 21s
 Vogel's Illustrated Atlas of General and Physical Geography, royal 8vo, cloth, 5s 6d
 Vogel's Outline Maps to ditto, sewed, 3s
 Weld's Auvergne, Piedmont, and Savoy, post 8vo, cloth, 3s 6d
 Wülfen's New Birth of Man's Nature, 8vo, cloth, 5s

DENT'S TABLE FOR THE EQUATION OF TIME.
 [This table shows the time which a clock or watch should indicate when the sun is on the meridian.]

1850	h. m. s.	1850	h. m. s.
May 11	11 56 8	May 15	11 56 5
12	56 7	16	56 6
13	56 5	17	56 6
14	56 4		

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The interesting and popular nature of several of our miscellaneous papers in this *Gazette* has induced us (for the hour only) to abridge our review, though there are a good supply of new publications of considerable variety and value which claim our prompt attention. Before the pleasant month of May is out, we trust to have done our duty by them, and "no mistake." We would refer our readers to the latest intelligence from Assyria and Mesopotamia, to the Roman Excavations at Lyonne, and other incidental matter.

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5,000	13 yrs. 10 mo.	683 6 8	787 10 0	6470 16 8
5,000	12 years	500 0 0	787 10 0	6287 10 0
5,000	10 years	300 0 0	787 10 0	6087 10 0
5,000	8 years	100 0 0	787 10 0	5887 10 0
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